孤高の人

THE CLIMBER

坂本眞一

原作 新田次郎著「孤高の人」

16

単独行者

YJ
ヤングジャンプ
YJC

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THE CLIMBER
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原作 新田次郎著「孤高の人」

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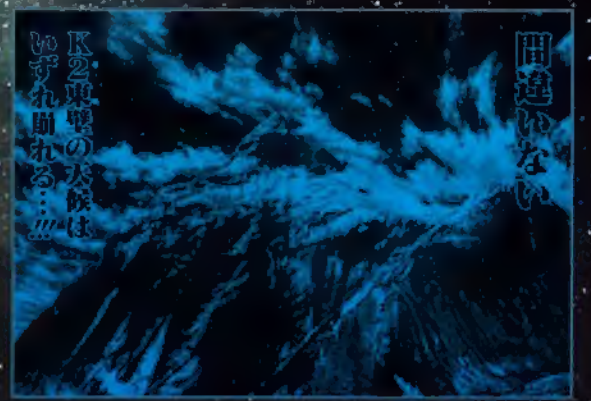
俺は山を愛している

もうここで死んでも構わない——。

16 孤高の人
THE CLIMBER

文太郎は建村と共にK2東壁に挑んだ。しかし建村が登山続行不能になり、その下降路で氷壁崩落に遭遇。氷河の果てで文太郎はかつて自らを単独行に導いたクライマーの骸と出会う。日本では文太郎の生還を待つ者…。だが文太郎はすべての喧騒から離れ、憧れ続けた雪山登攀に向き合い…!?



集英社

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単独行者

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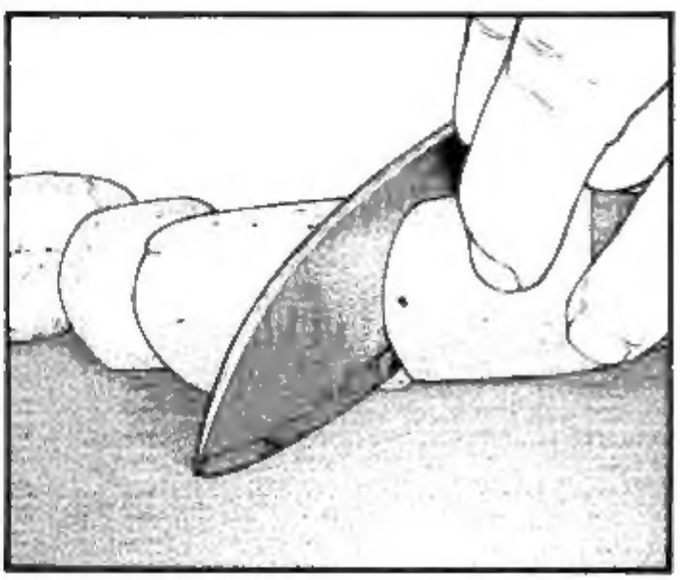
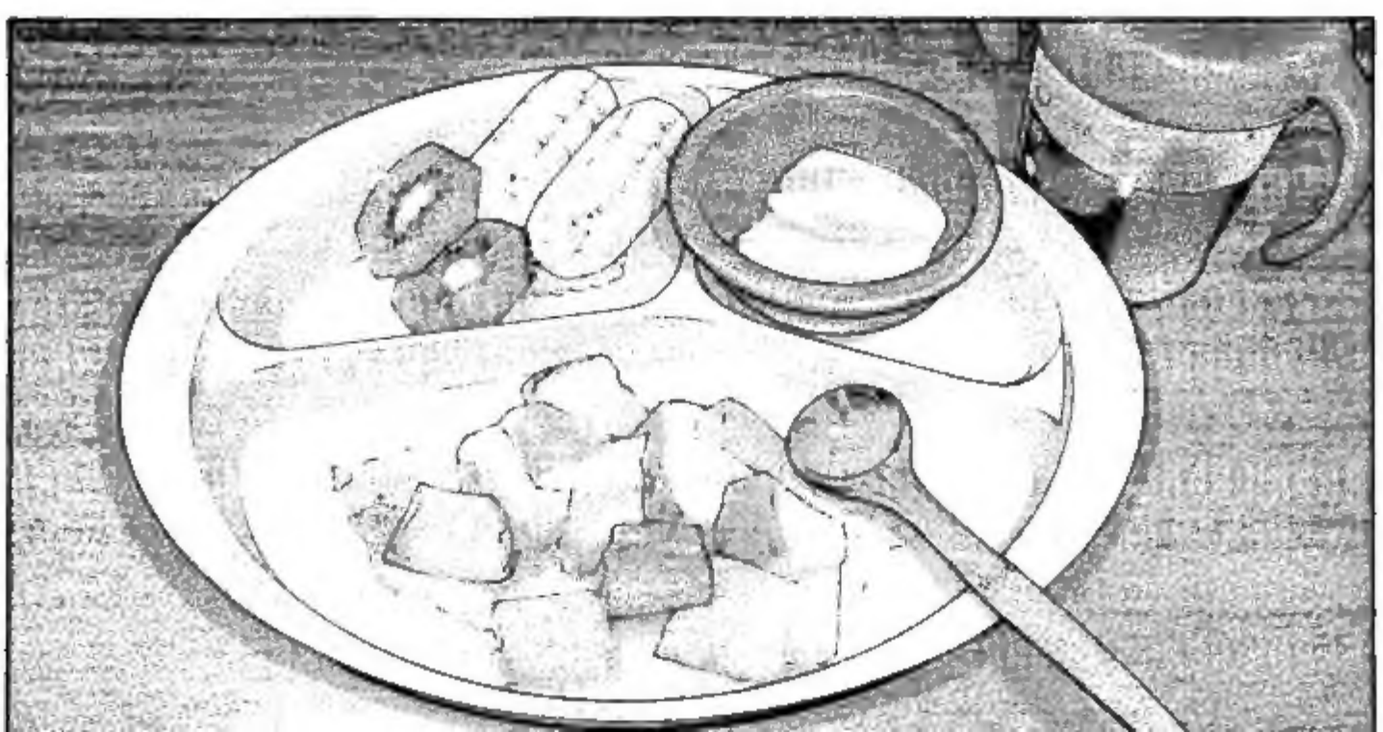
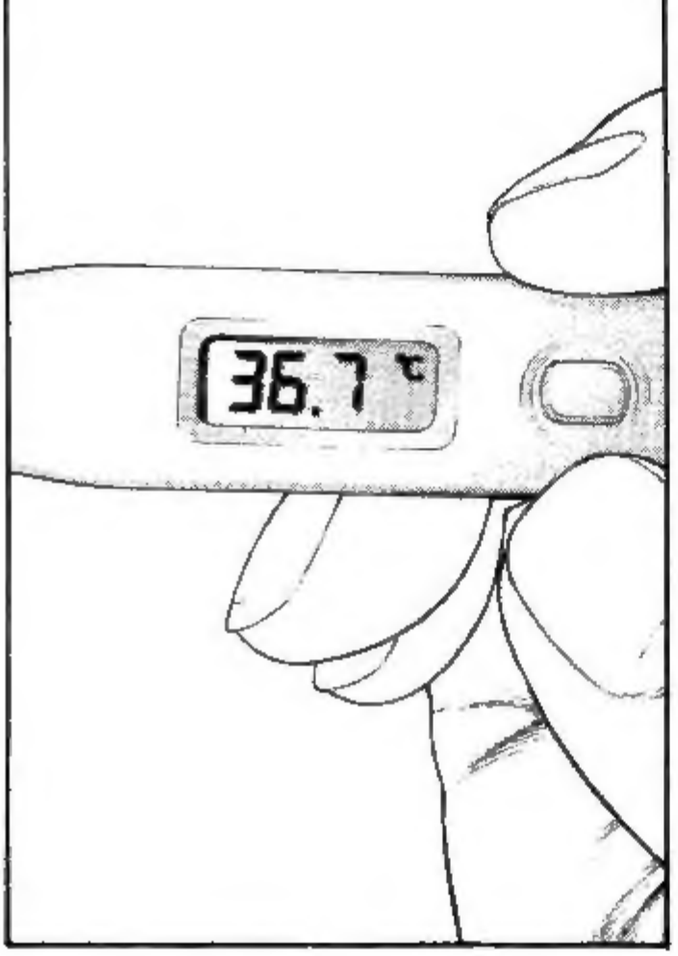
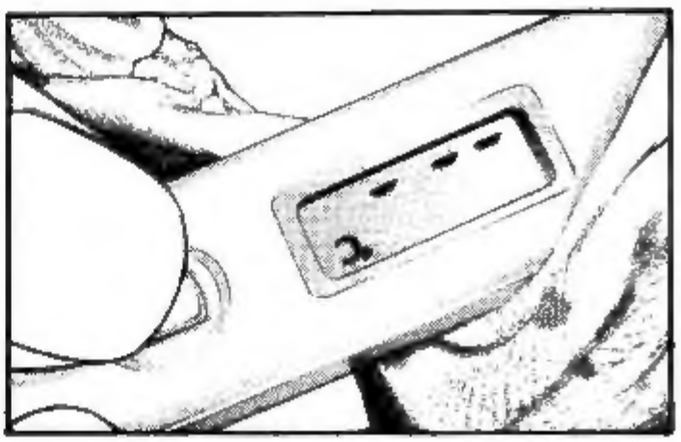
この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

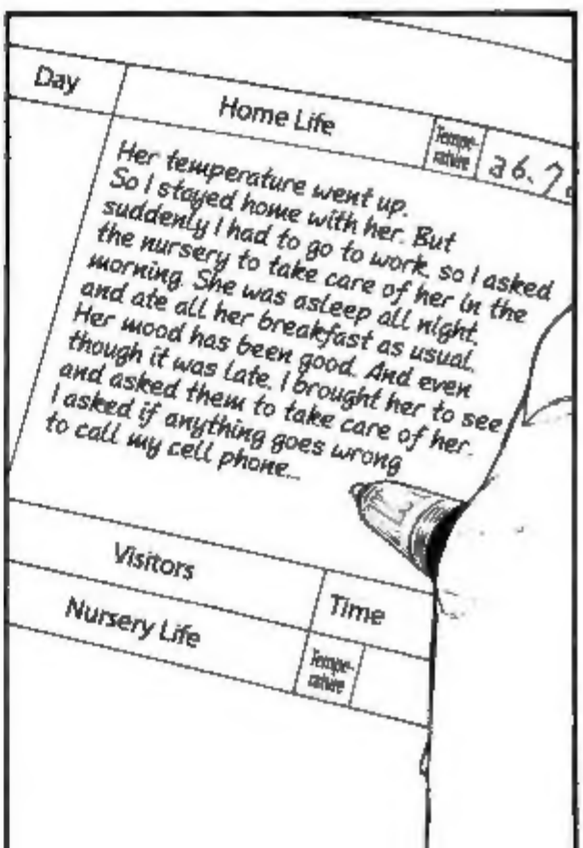
#153 - At Home

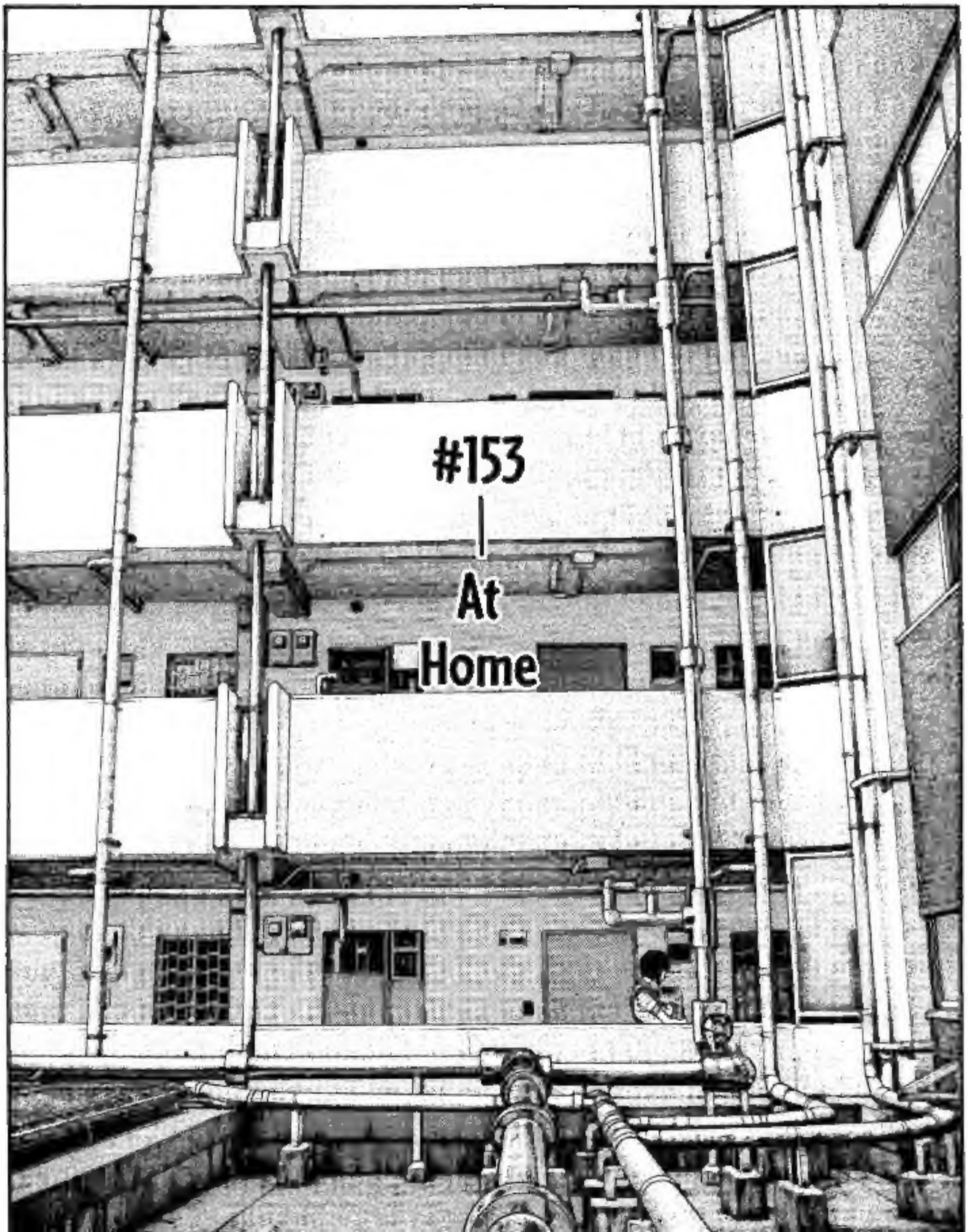





36.7°C

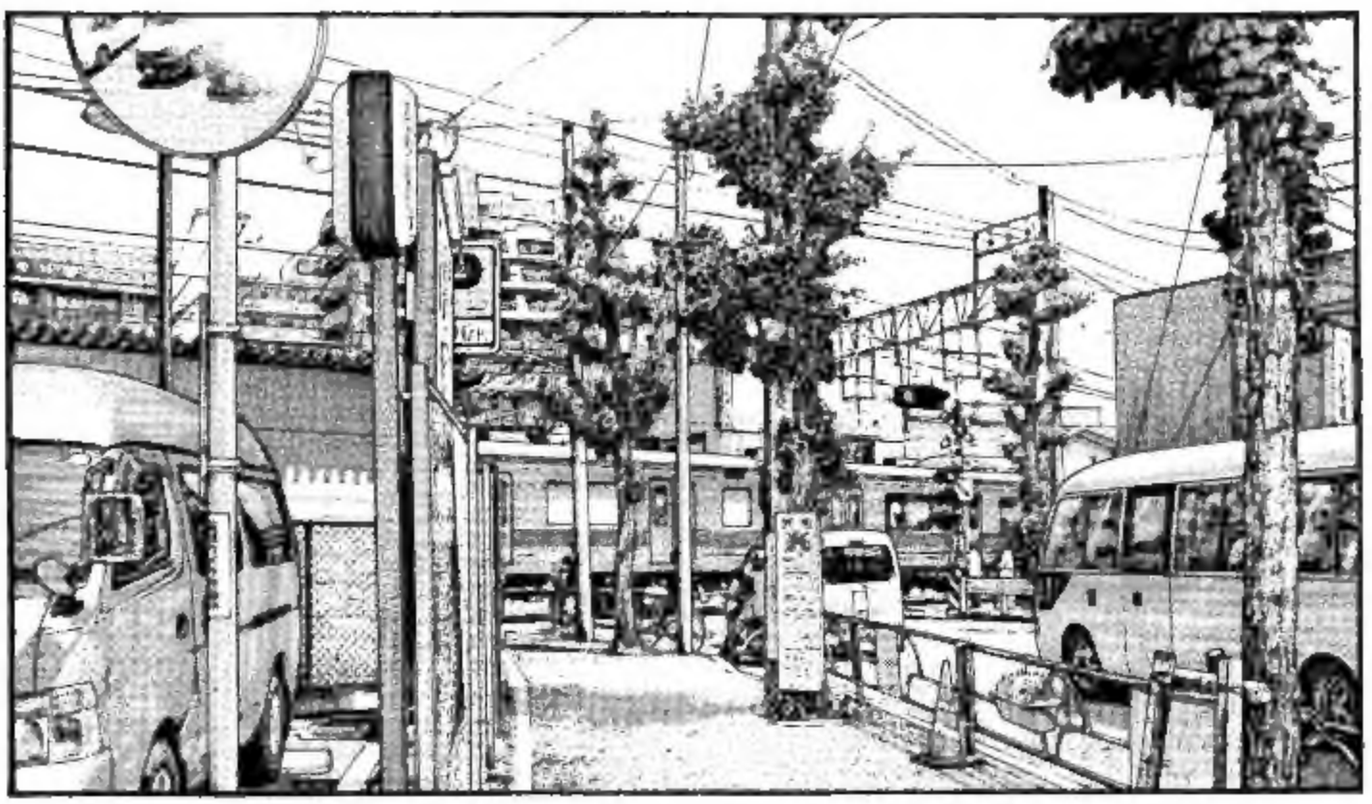



Day
Home Life
temperature
36.7
Her temperature went up.
So I stayed home with her. But
suddenly I had to go to work, so I asked
the nursery to take care of her in the
morning. She was asleep all night,
and ate all her breakfast as usual.
Her mood has been good. And even
though it was late, I brought her to see
and asked them to take care of her.
I asked if anything goes wrong
to call my cell phone.
Visitors
Time
Nursery Life
temperature

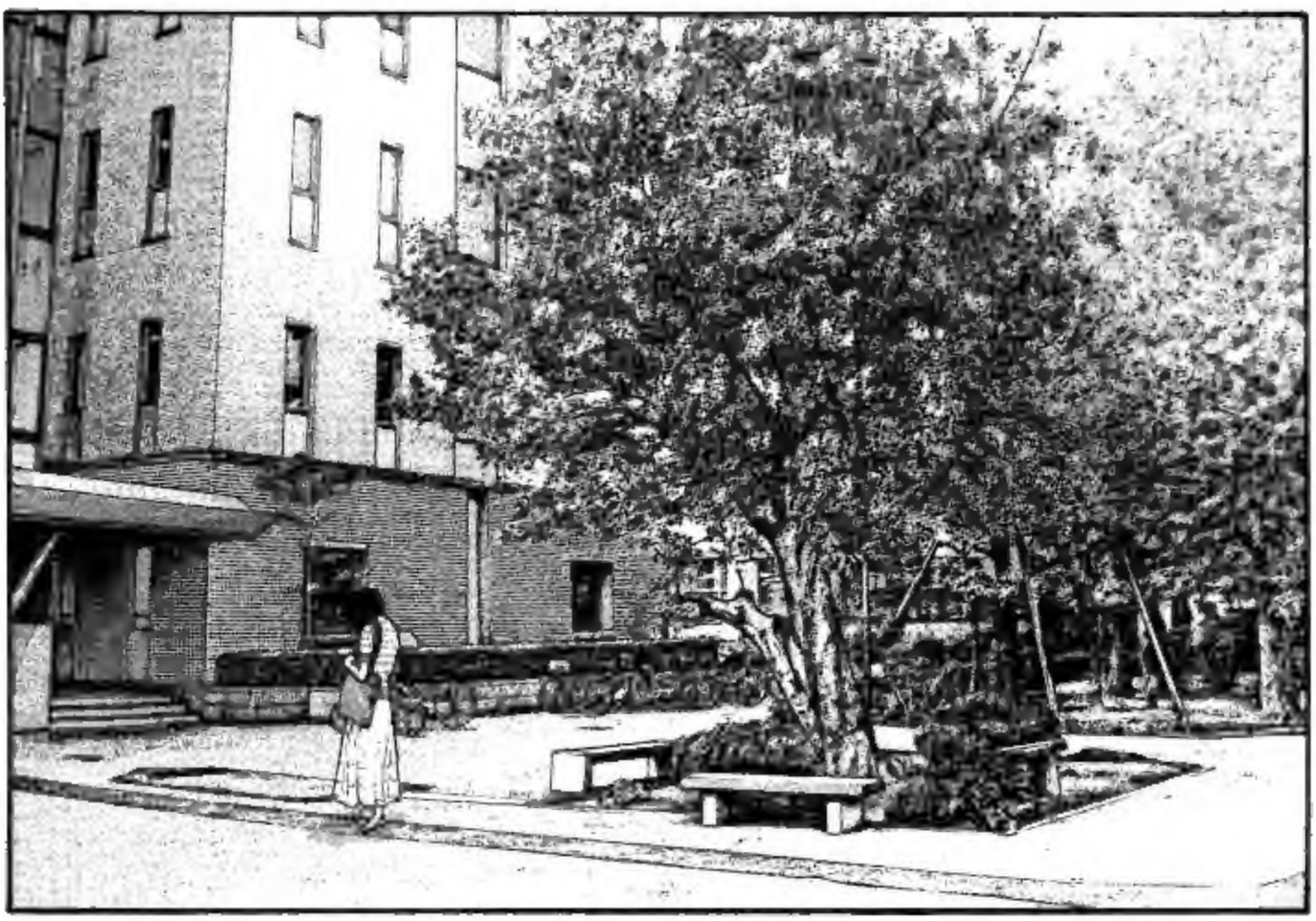

#153
At
Home

保育園

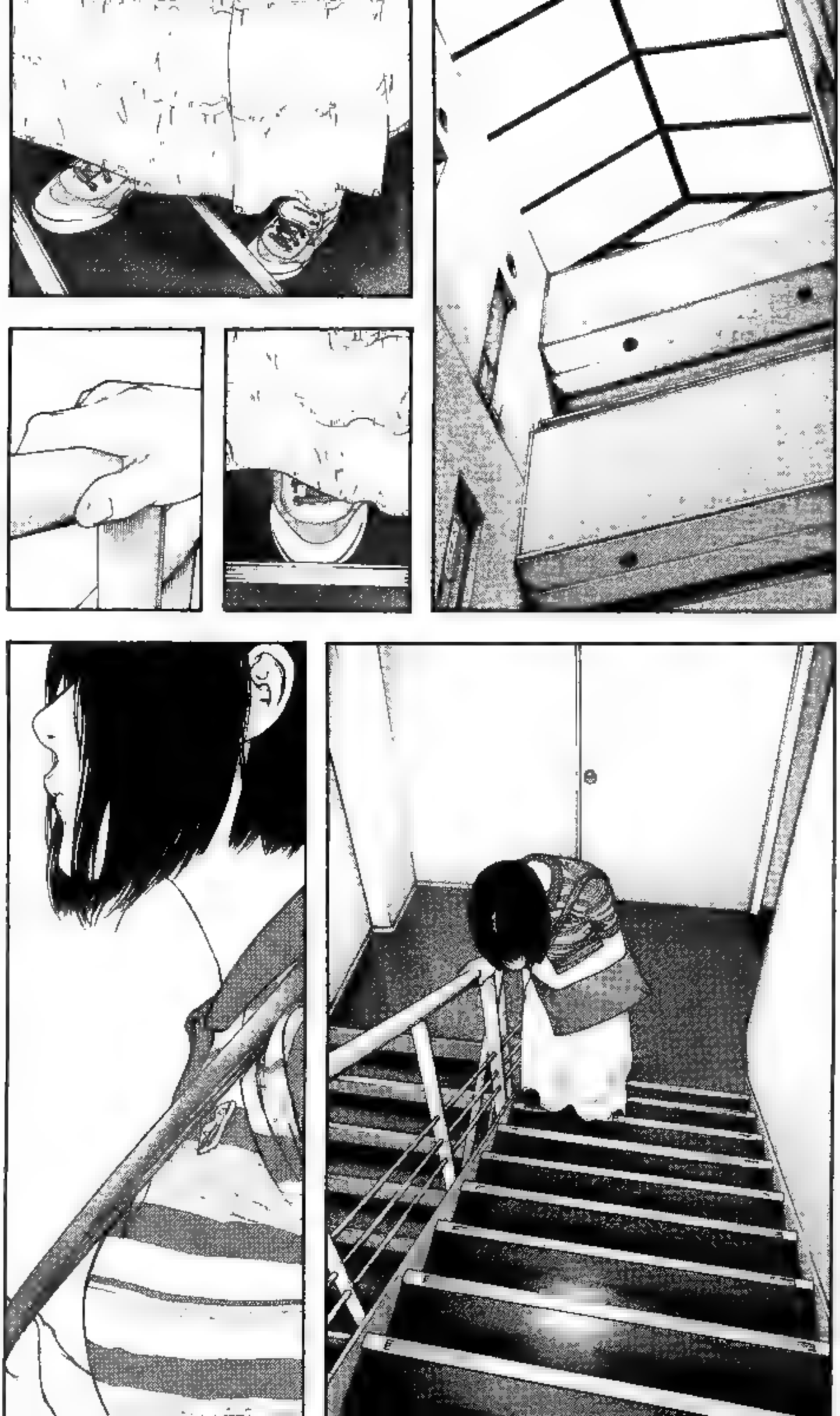
つくし 1

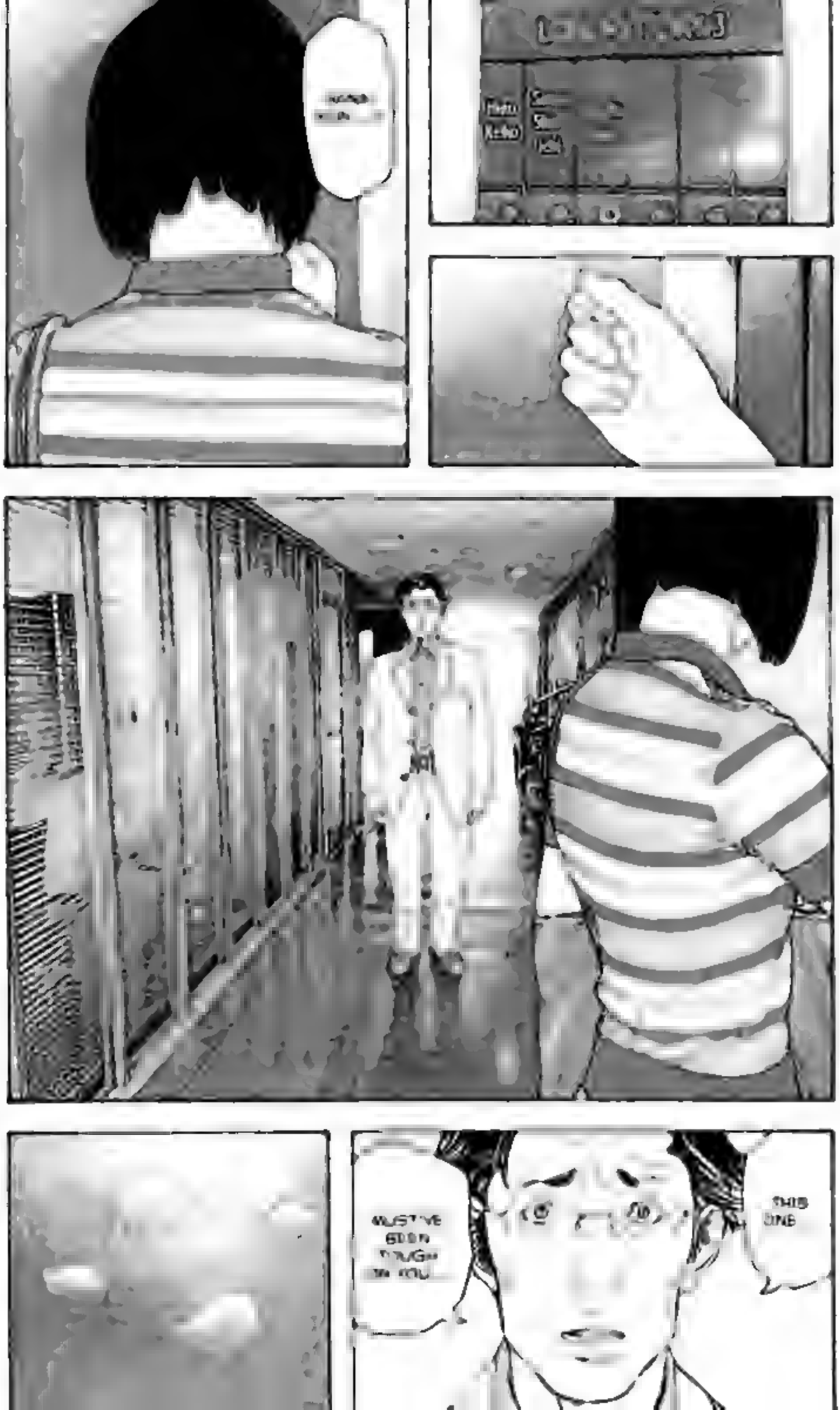


Summer Courses



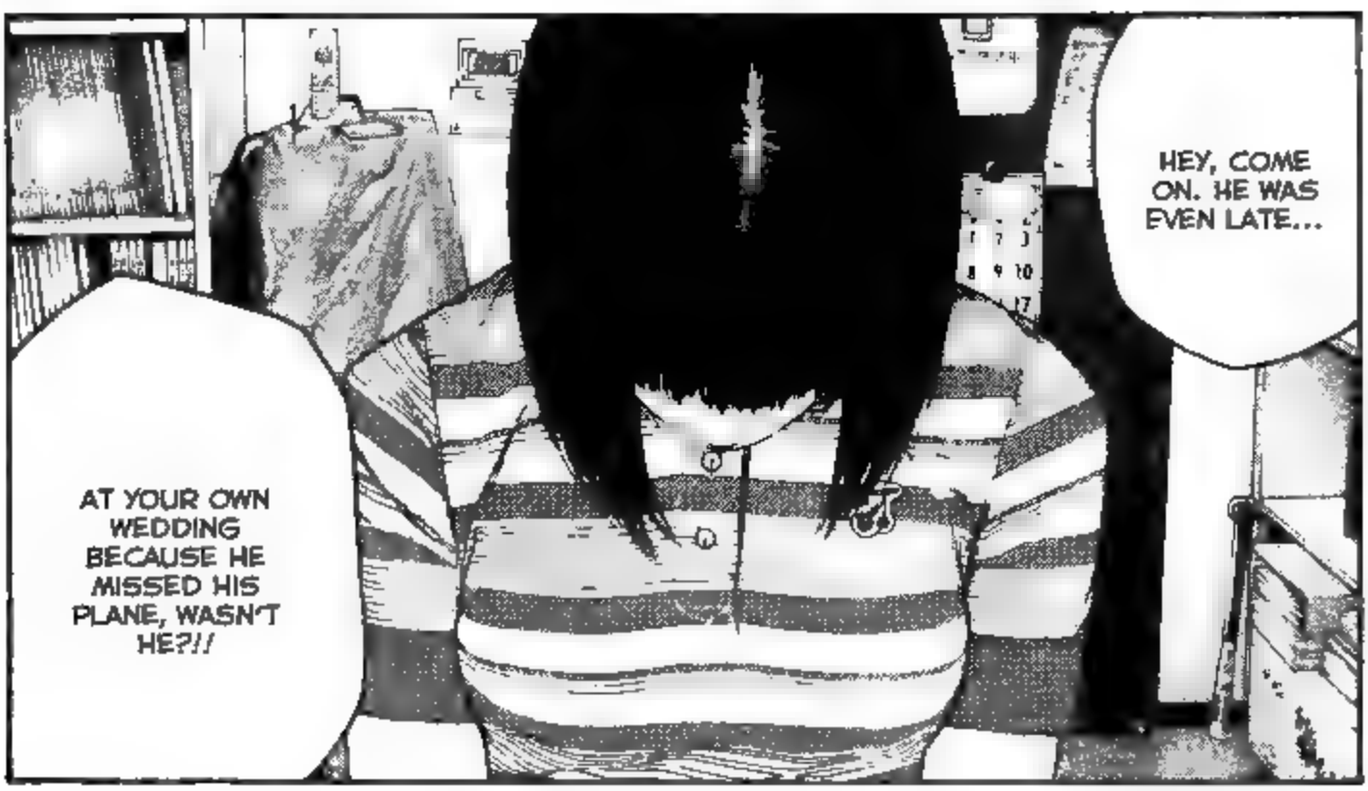
BUILDING #1
RESEARCH SECTION

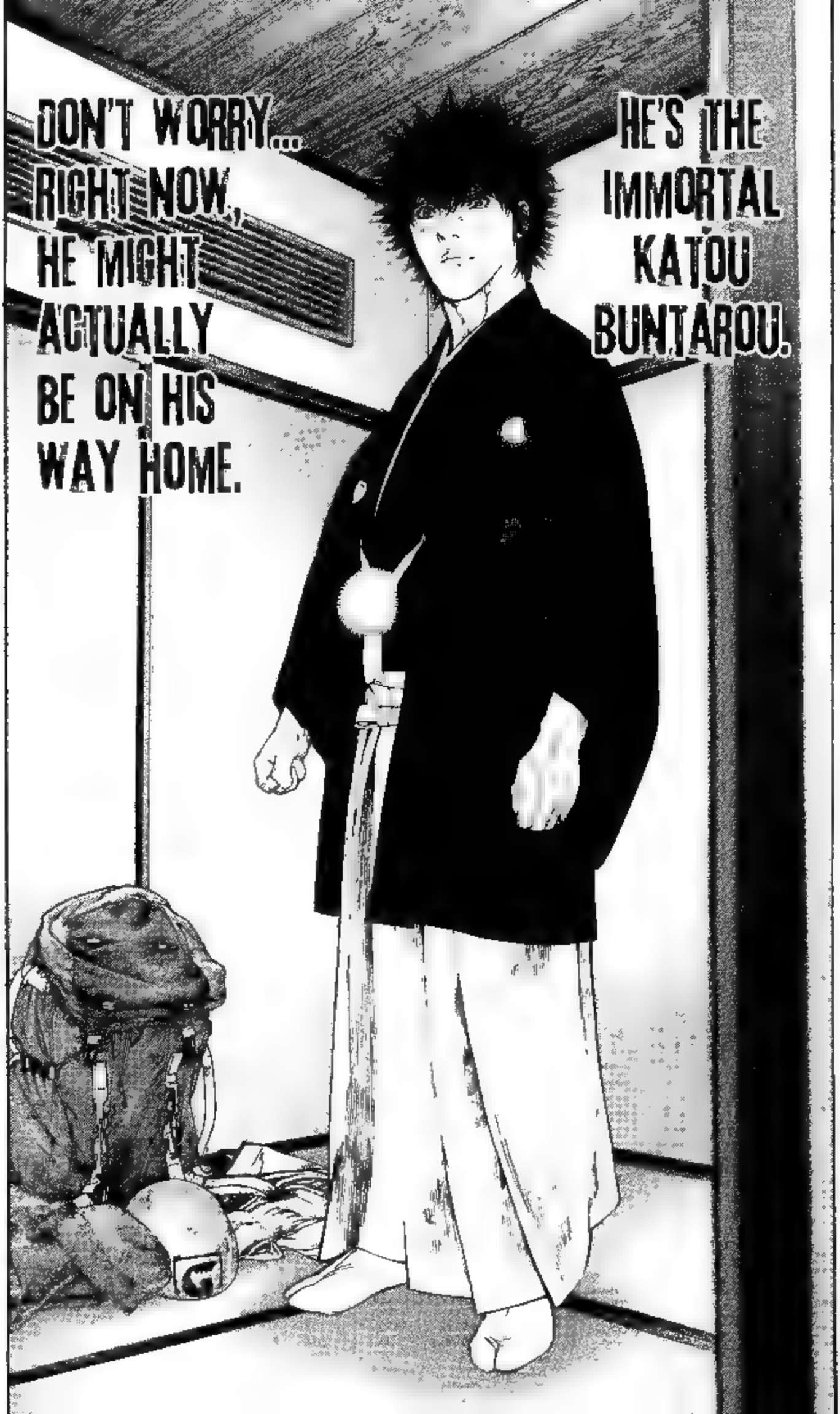




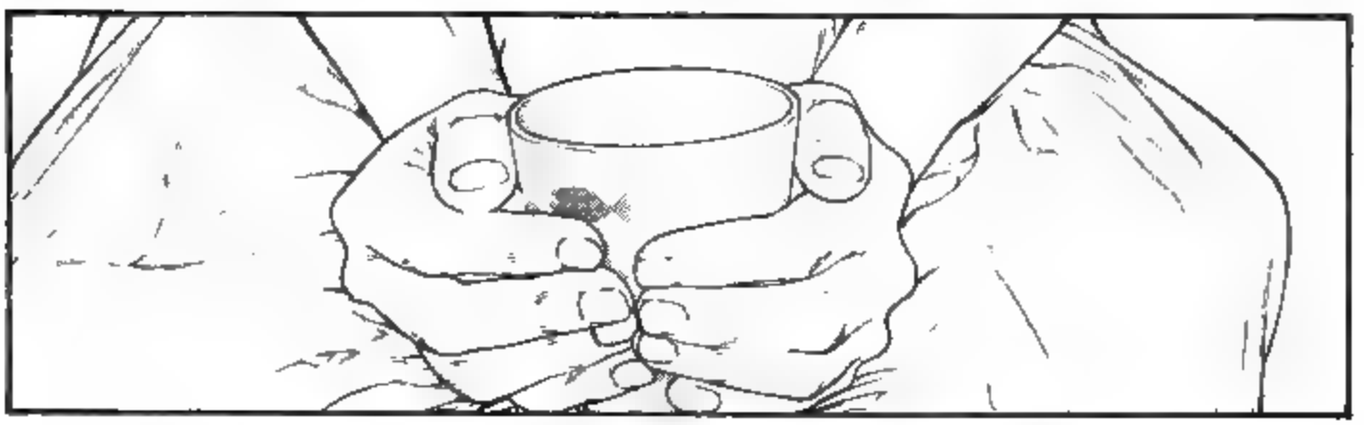
Two Japanese alpinists missing?

HE WAS PROBABLY IN A HURRY TO JOIN THE SEARCH FOR BODIES ON DHAULAGIRI WHERE THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT,
SO HE EXTENDED THE TIME OF HIS STAY THERE WITHOUT CALLING.
HE WENT TO INVESTIGATE THE THULAGI GLACIER IN NEPAL AND ALSO WENT TO MANASULU.
AND DID A TRAVERSAL CLIMB TO PEAK 29, TOO, SO HE'S LATE GETTING HOME, DON'T YOU THINK?


HEY, COME ON. HE WAS EVEN LATE...
AT YOUR OWN WEDDING BECAUSE HE MISSED HIS PLANE, WASN'T HE?!!


DON'T WORRY... RIGHT NOW, HE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ON HIS WAY HOME.
HE'S THE IMMORTAL KATOU BUNTAROU.

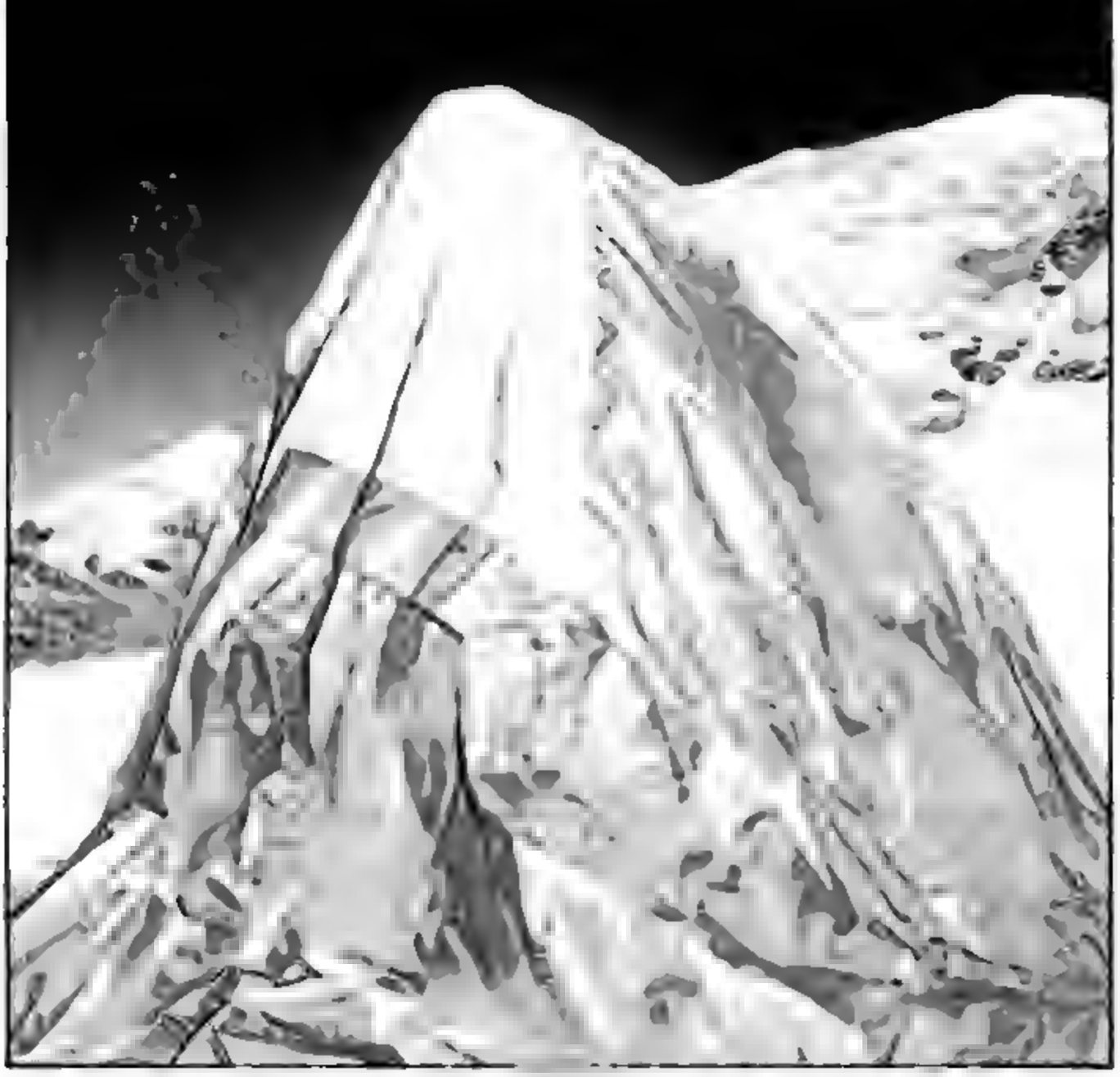
HIS CAMERA PROBABLY JUST BROKE FROM THE COLD OR THE BATTERY RAN OUT, SO THE VIDEO HAS STOPPED BEING RELAYED.
IF I GET ANY WORD FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL IMMEDIATELY, SO PLEASE GO HOME FOR TODAY.

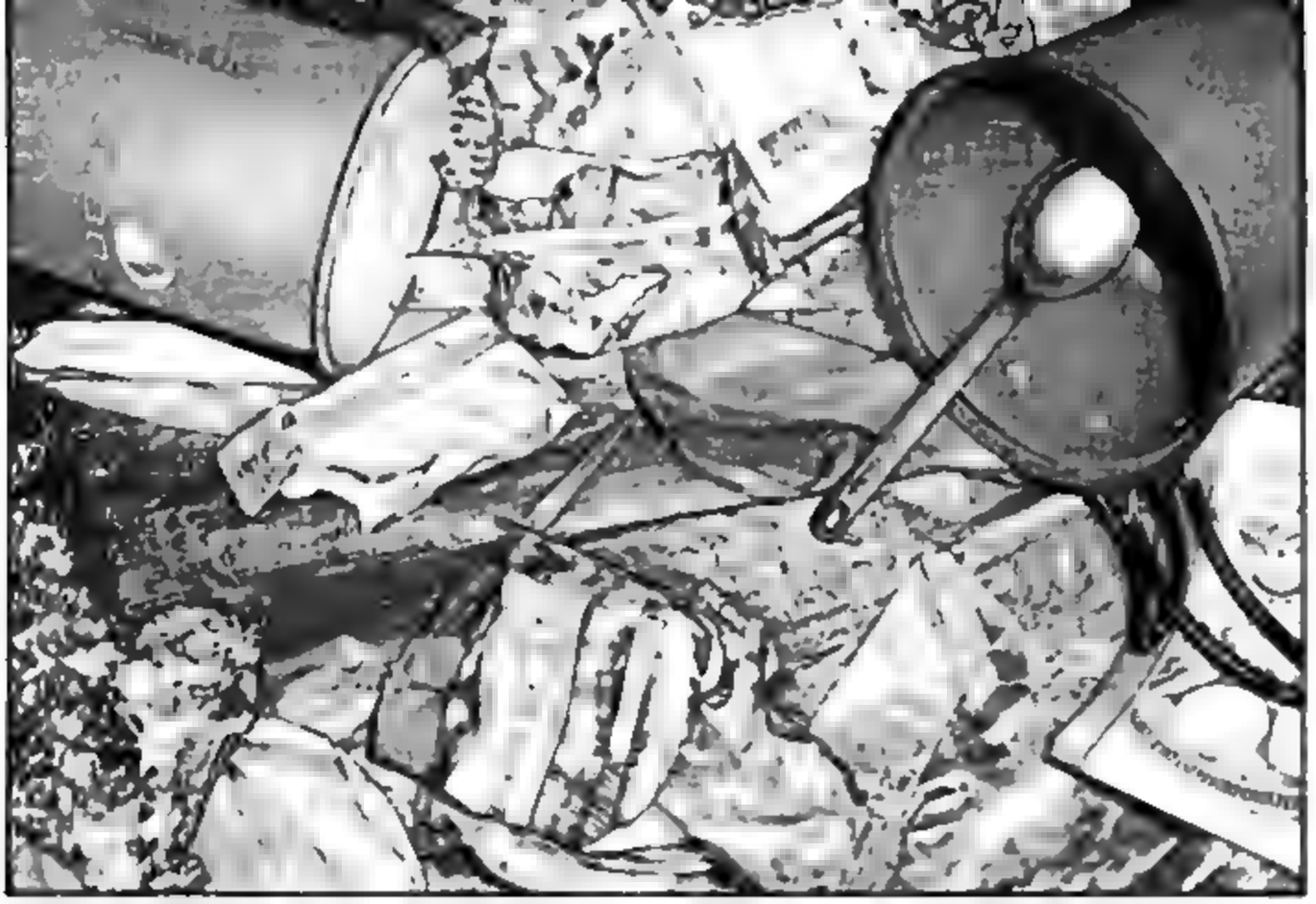


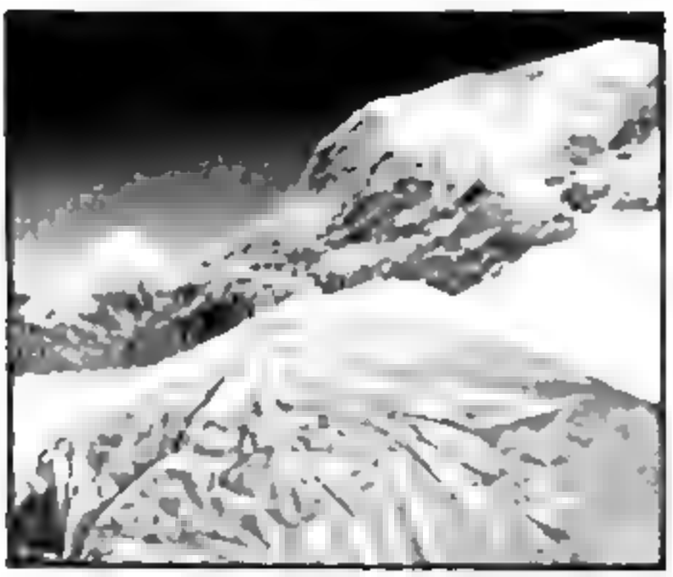
!!
.....

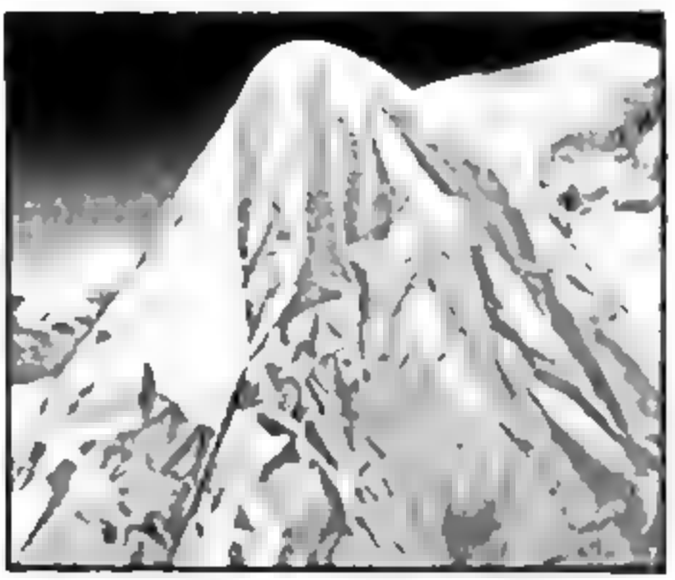
TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
IF ROKKA-CHAN'S MOM IS TOO TENSE, I'D FEEL BAD FOR HER!

OKAY...









KOKOU NO HITO

by Authors: NABEDA Yoshiro and NITTA Jiro
by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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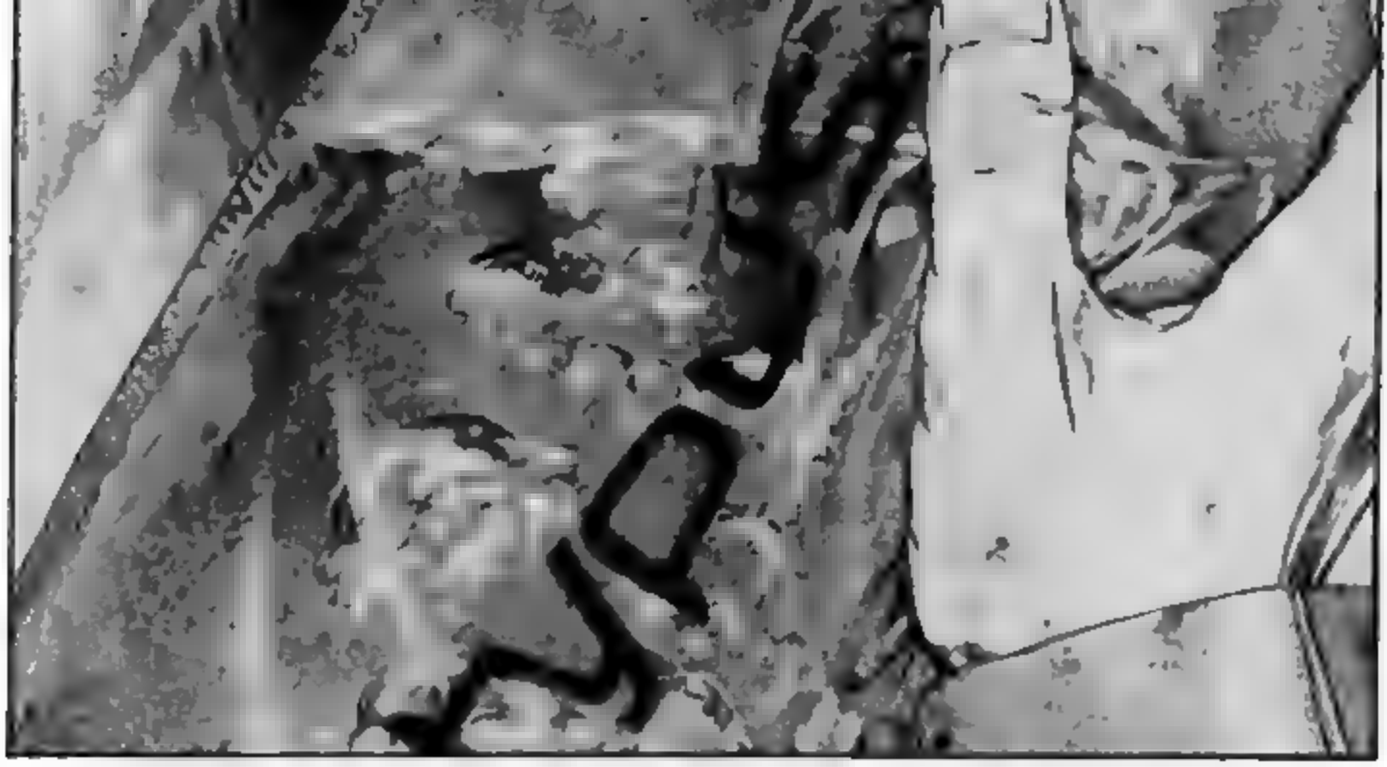
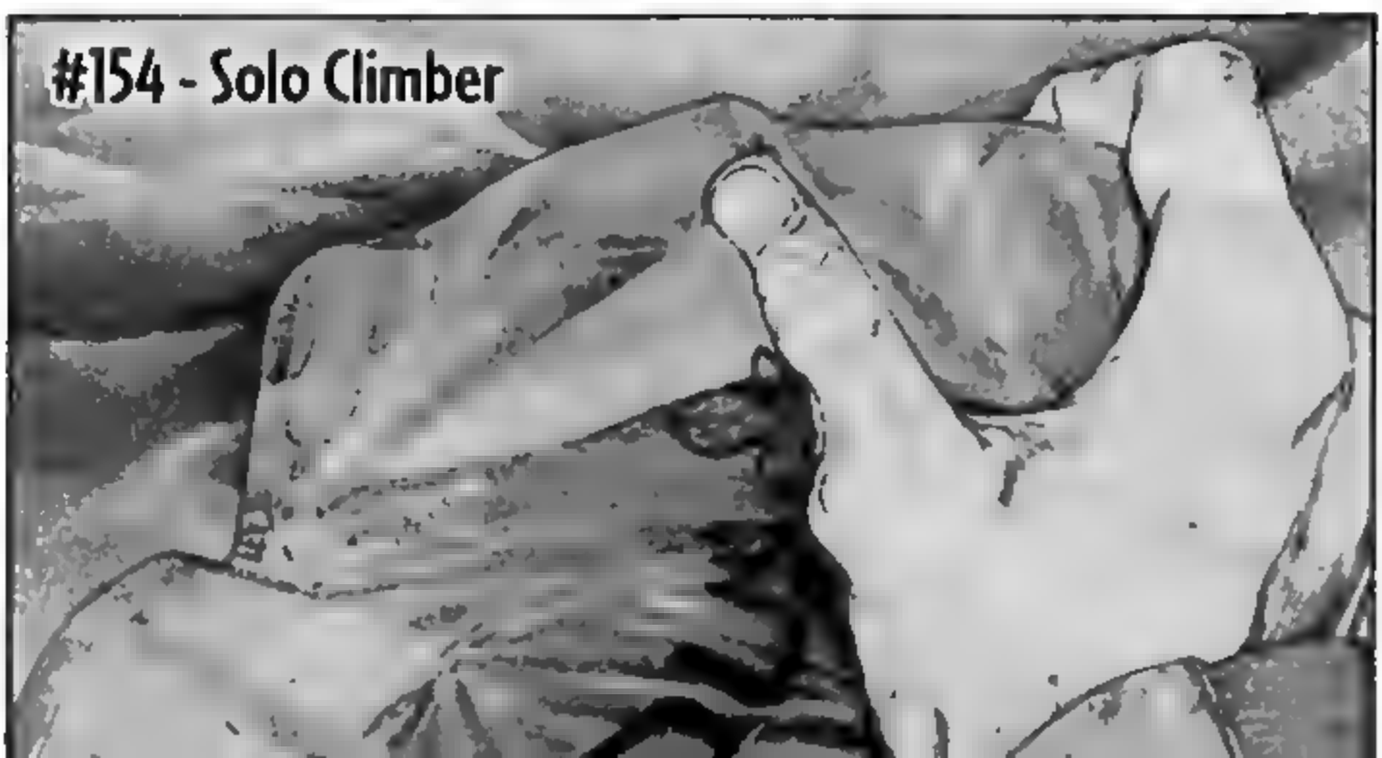
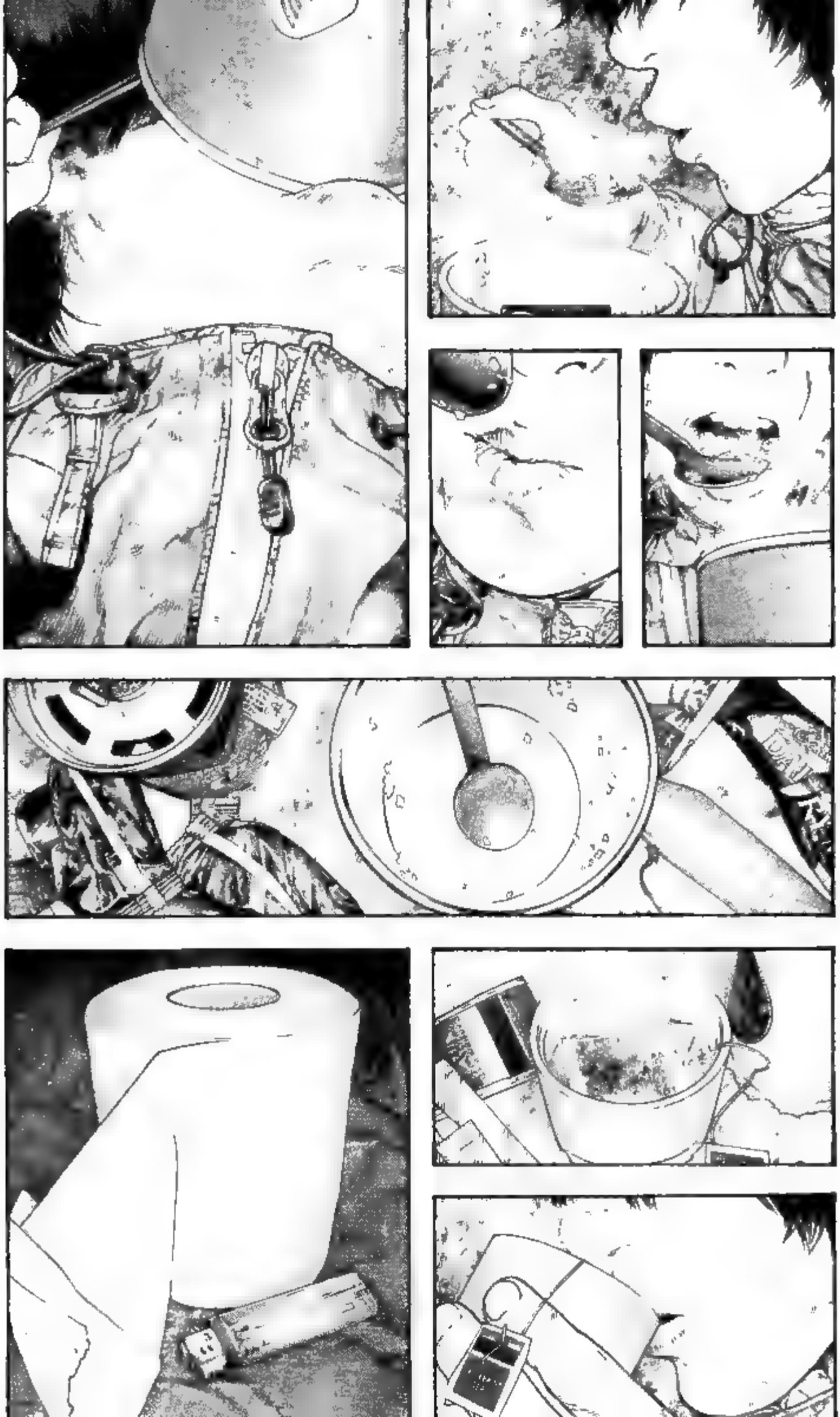
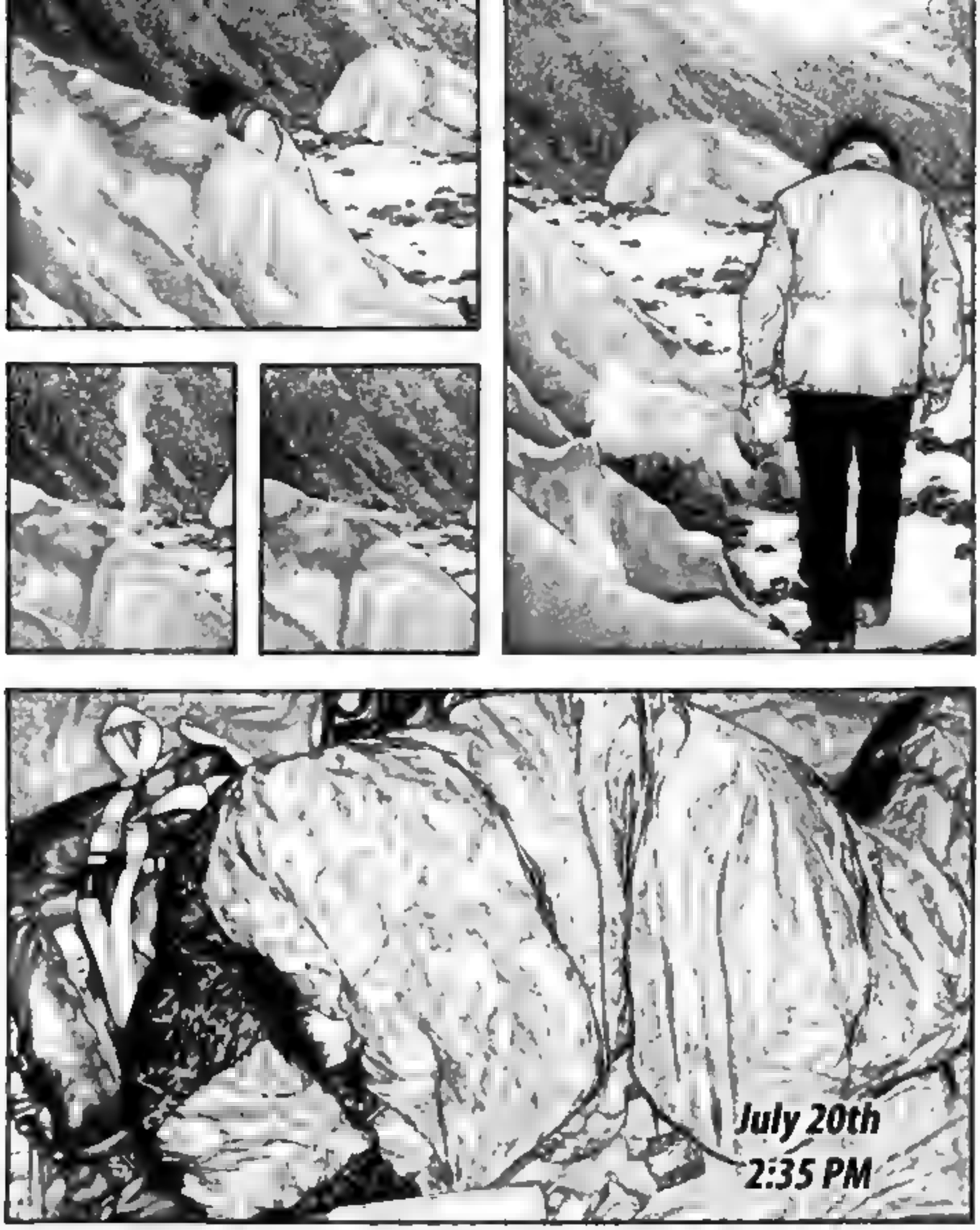



#154 - Solo Climber

#154 - Solo Climber

JETEOIL

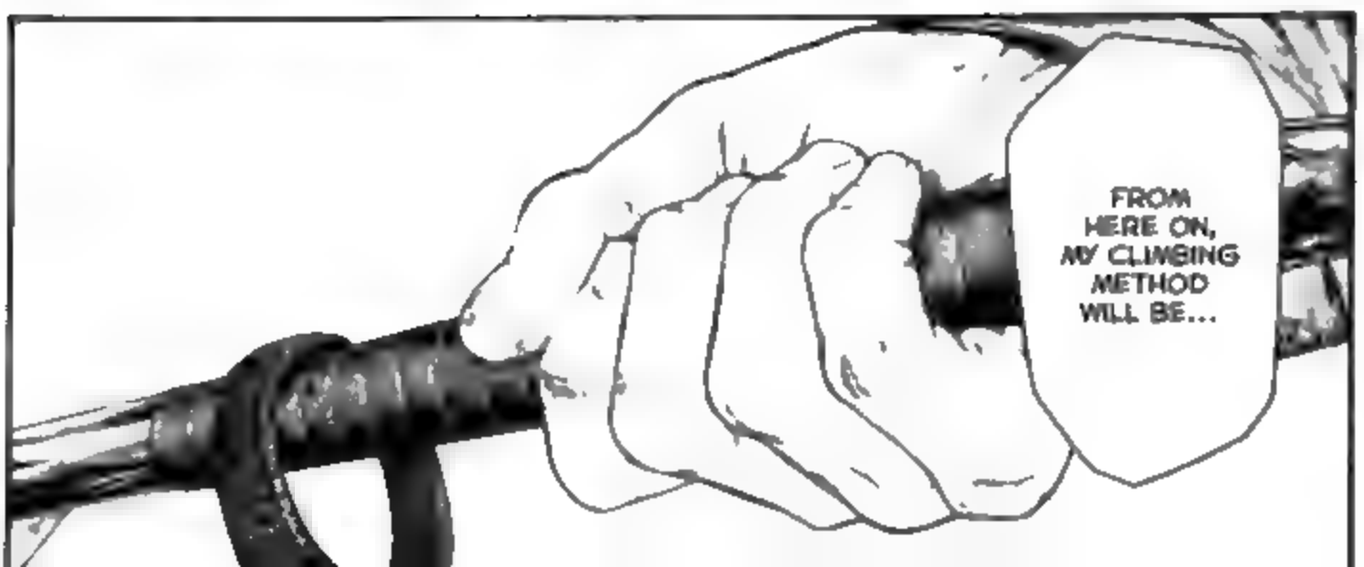



July 20th
2:35 PM

45
MY HIGH-ELEVATION ADAPTATION IS A SUCCESS.
MY HEART'S RATE RETURNED TO THE NUMBER AT GROUND LEVEL...
July 21th
11:41 PM

MESSNER
EPIGAS
EPIGAS
EPIGAS
GRIVEL

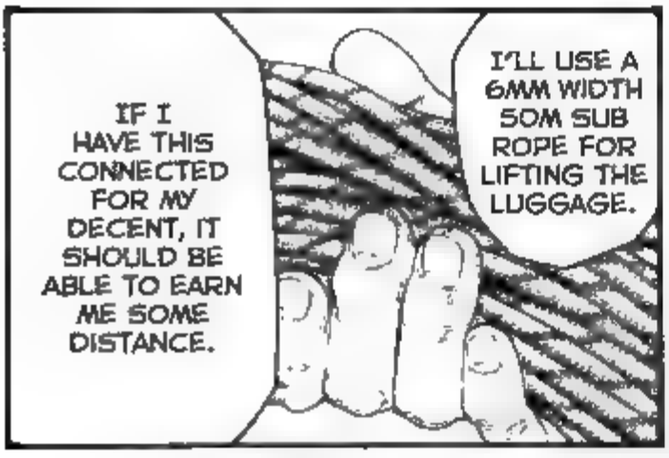
VEL.


FROM HERE ON, MY CLIMBING METHOD WILL BE...

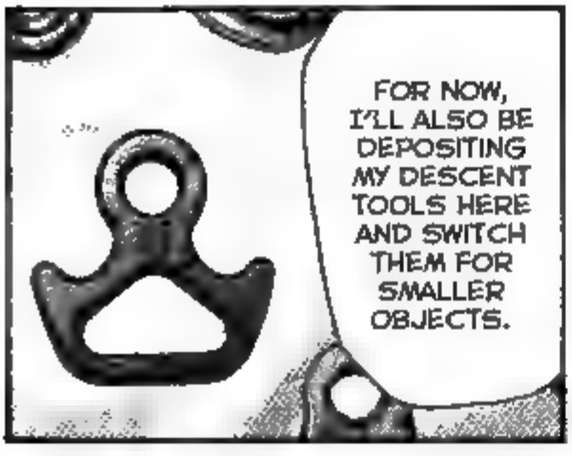
...SOLO!
ALL FREE.
GRI

MY MAIN ROPE IS 50M AND I'LL CHANGE TO THE 6MM WIDTH ONE THAT HARA-KUN USED.
THIS WAY I'LL TAKE OFF 900 GRAMS FROM WHEN I WAS USING AN 8MM ONE.

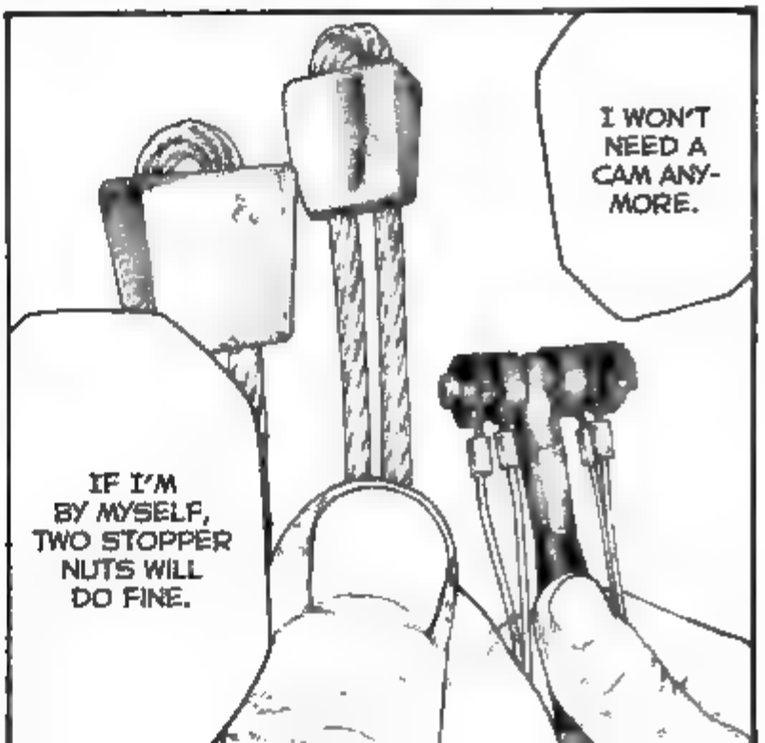
I'LL CHANGE THIS TENT TO A DEPOSIT GROUND FOR USE BY ONE PERSON.
AND HAVE THAT READY IN THE RARE EVENT I NEED IT FOR THE ATTACK.
I CAN USE MY SLEEPING BAG AS A LIGHTWEIGHT BIVOUAC SHELTER WITH HIGH MOISTURE PERMEABILITY.

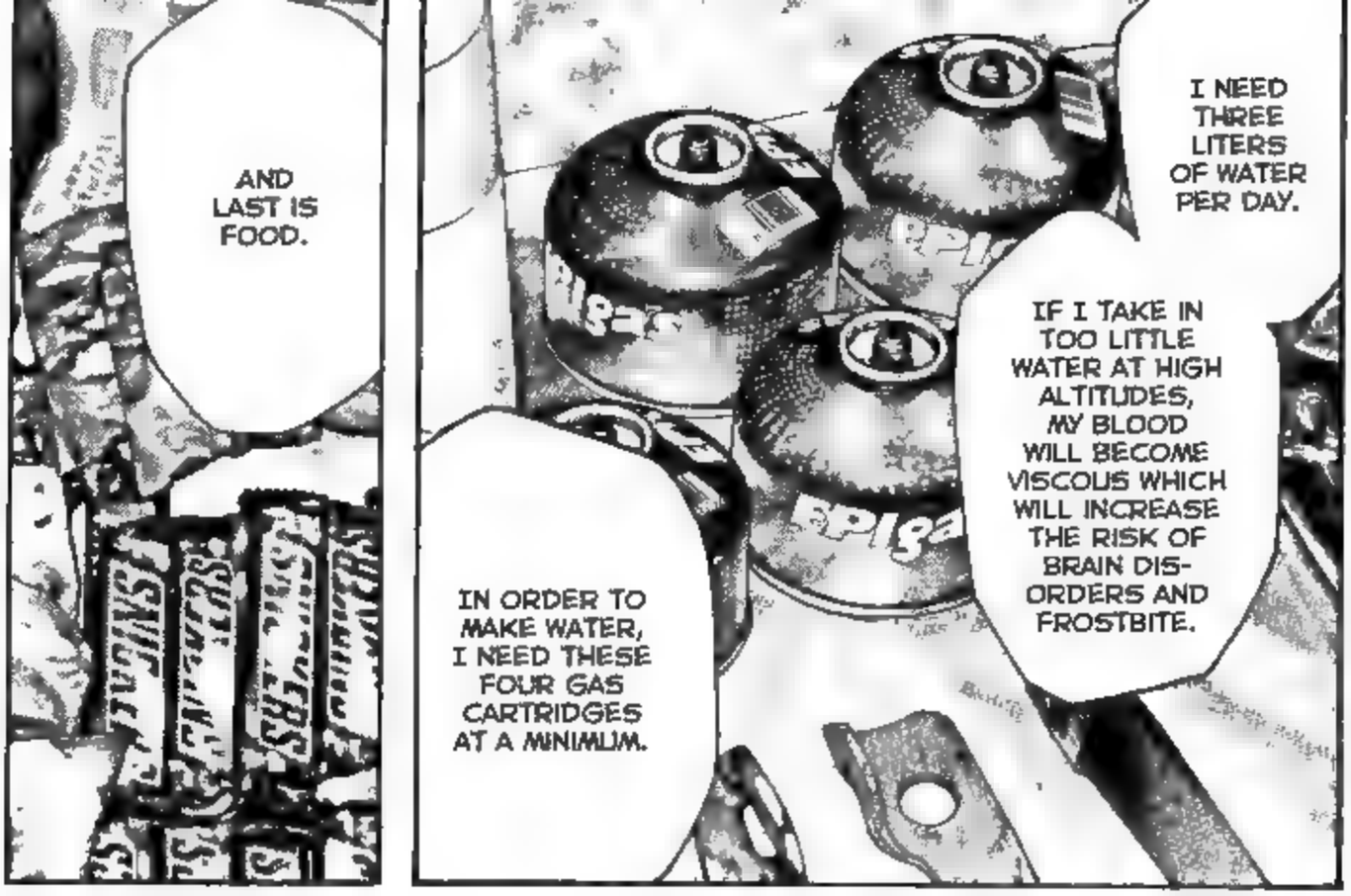

I'LL USE A 6MM WIDTH 50M SUB ROPE FOR LIFTING THE LUGGAGE.
IF I HAVE THIS CONNECTED FOR MY DECENT, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO EARN ME SOME DISTANCE.

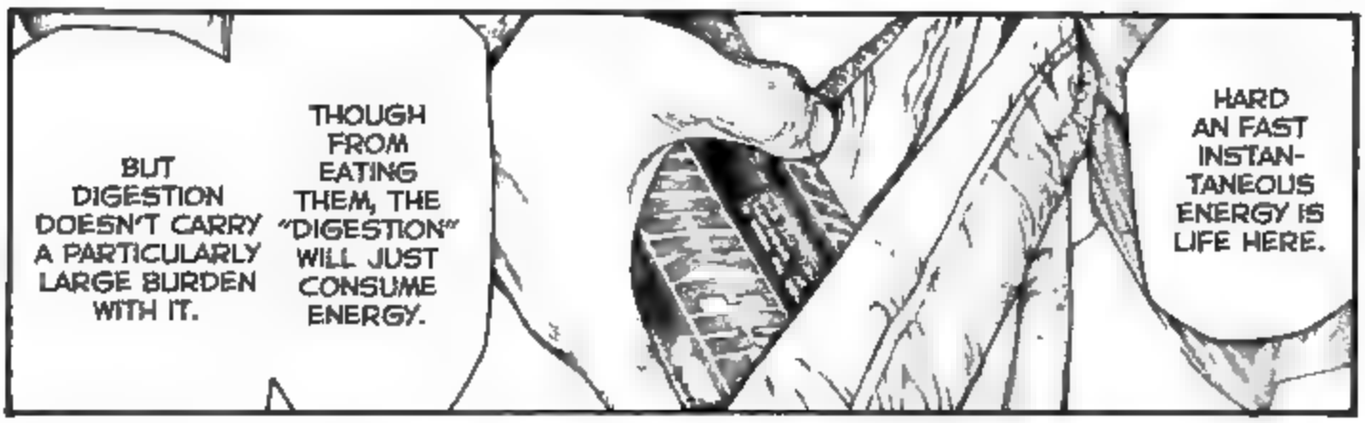
THREE SLINGS, A THREAD HOOK...
THREE ICE SCREWS,
THREE PITONS,

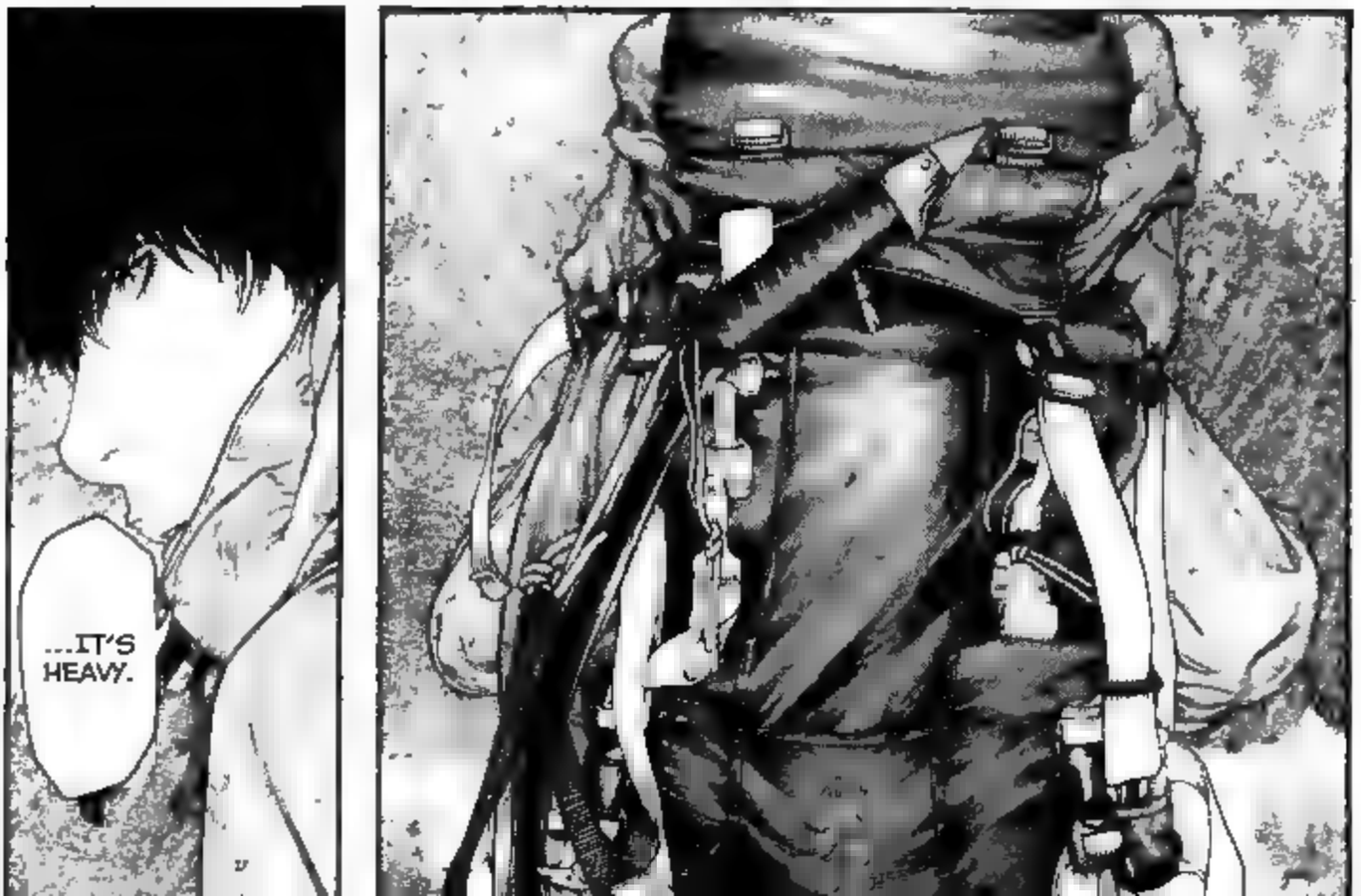

FOR NOW, I'LL ALSO BE DEPOSITING MY DESCENT TOOLS HERE AND SWITCH THEM FOR SMALLER OBJECTS.

NEXT IS WATER.

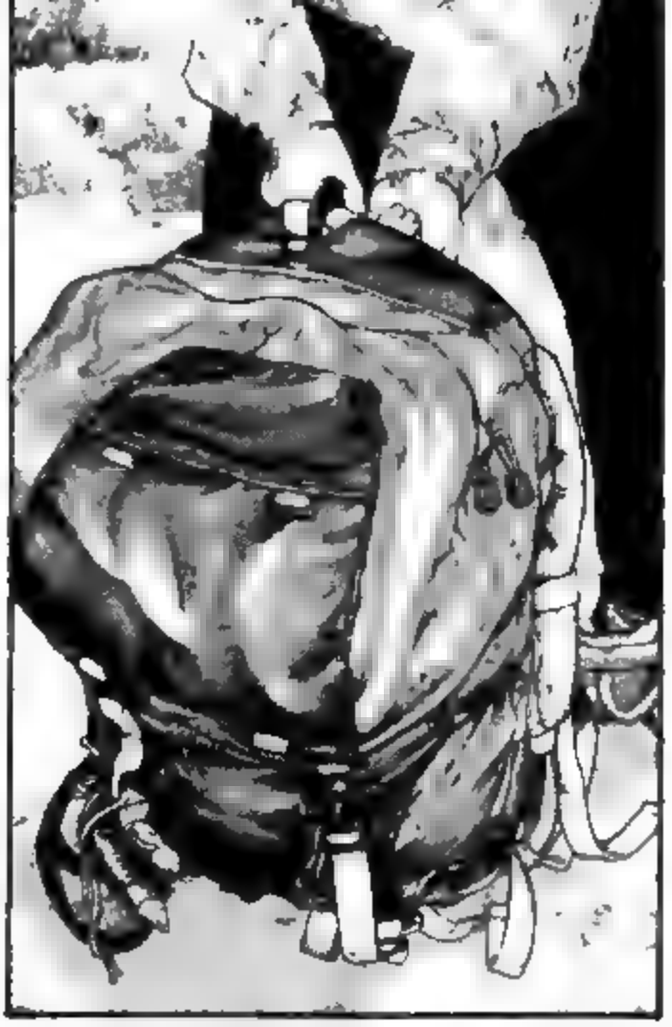

I WON'T NEED A CAM ANY-MORE.
IF I'M BY MYSELF, TWO STOPPER NUTS WILL DO FINE.

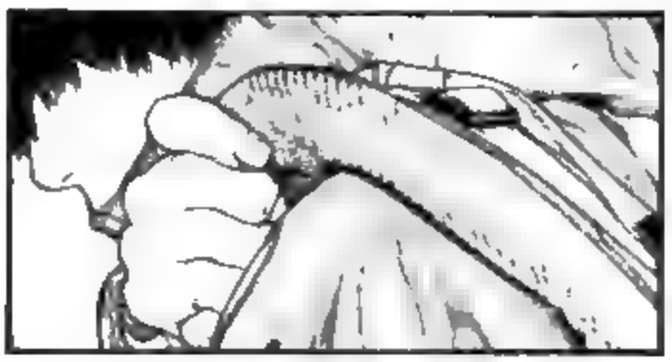

AND LAST IS FOOD.
I NEED THREE LITERS OF WATER PER DAY.
IF I TAKE IN TOO LITTLE WATER AT HIGH ALTITUDES, MY BLOOD WILL BECOME VISCOUS WHICH WILL INCREASE THE RISK OF BRAIN DISORDERS AND FROSTBITE.
IN ORDER TO MAKE WATER, I NEED THESE FOUR GAS CARTRIDGES AT A MINIMUM.


BUT DIGESTION DOESN'T CARRY A PARTICULARLY LARGE BURDEN WITH IT.
THOUGH FROM EATING THEM, THE "DIGESTION" WILL JUST CONSUME ENERGY.
HARD AN FAST INSTANTANEOUS ENERGY IS LIFE HERE.


...IT'S HEAVY.

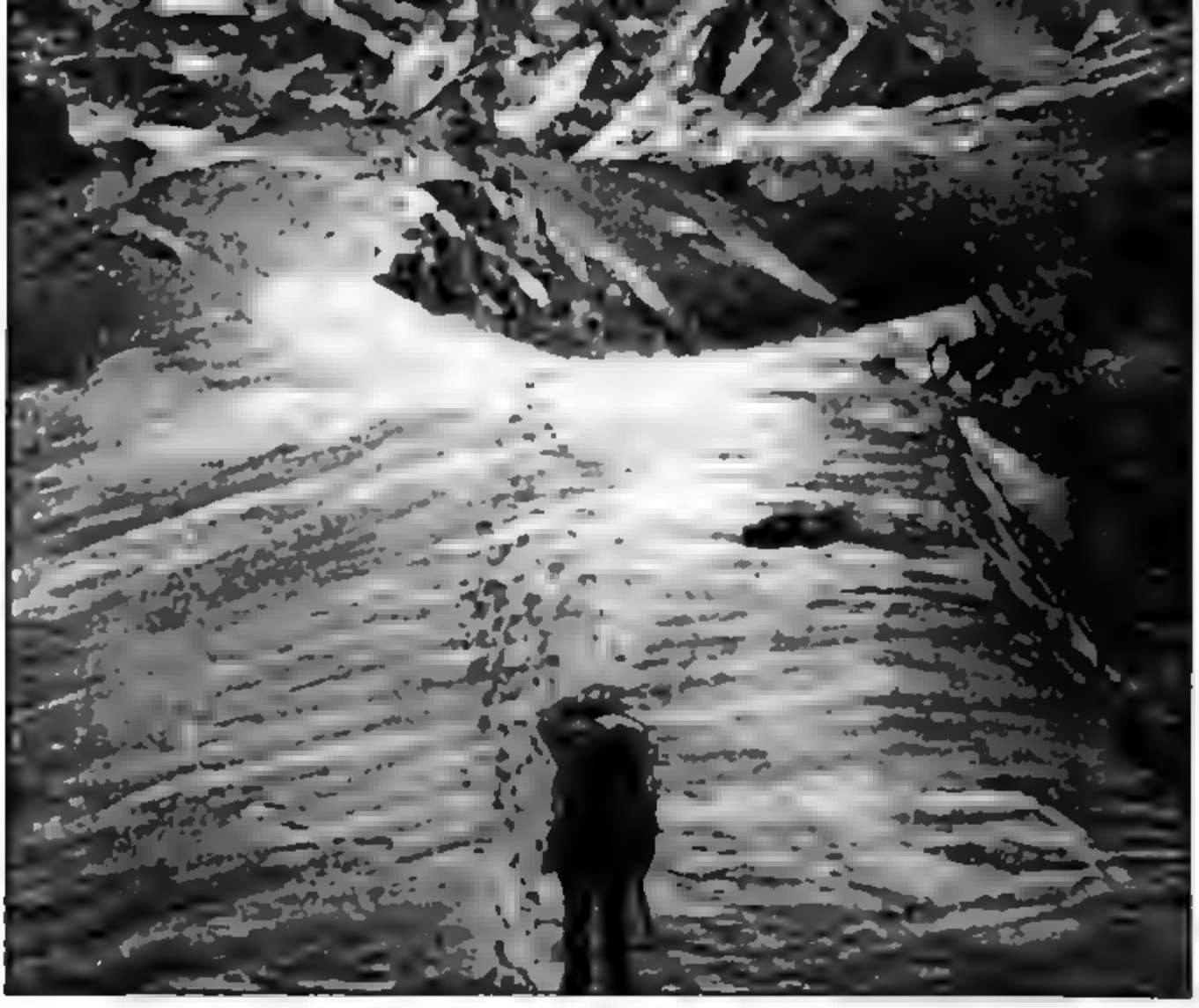
I'LL LOWER THE NUMBER OF CHOCOLATE BARS TO THREE A DAY.
BEYOND THAT, I THINK I'LL JUST HAVE A TUBE OF HONEY AND CONDENSED MILK.





...I'LL EAT FOR THE MOST PART, FOUR DAYS FROM NOW.

THE ATTACK TO THE PEAK...
WILL START TODAY AFTER SUNSET.



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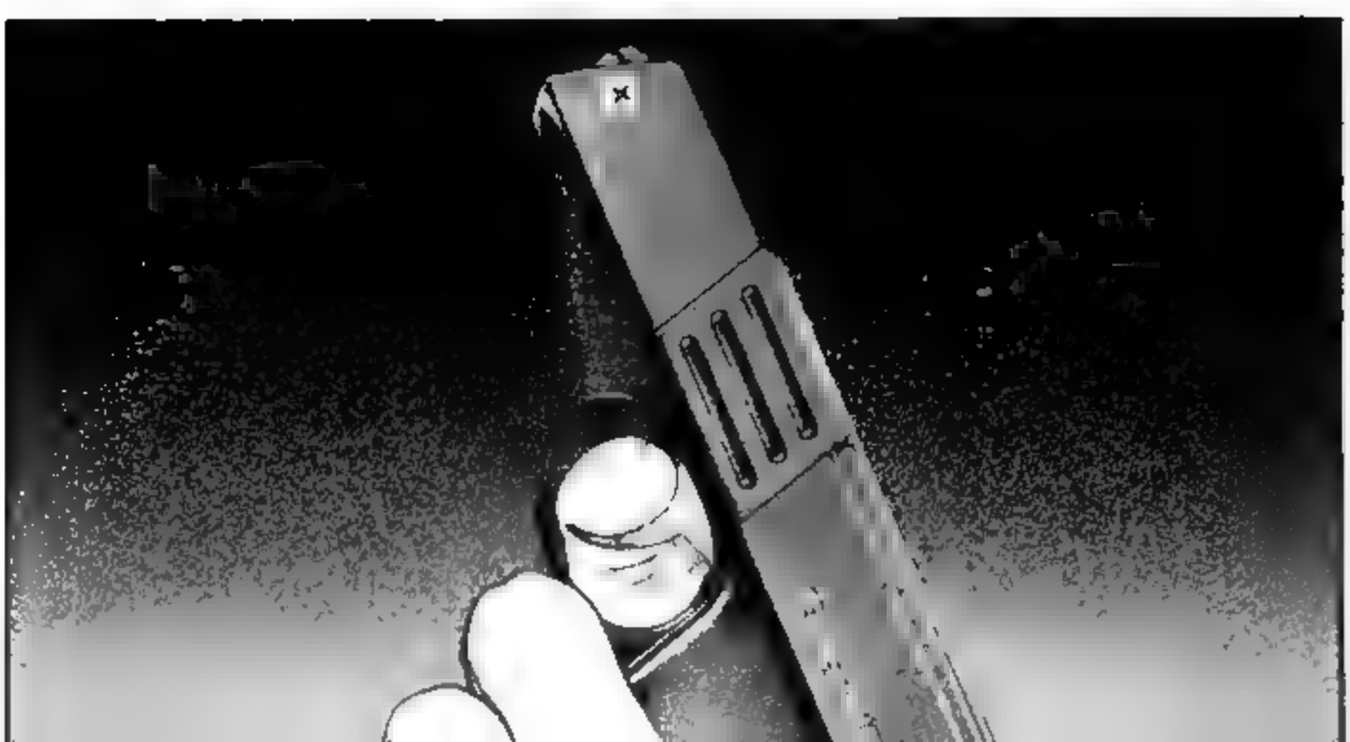
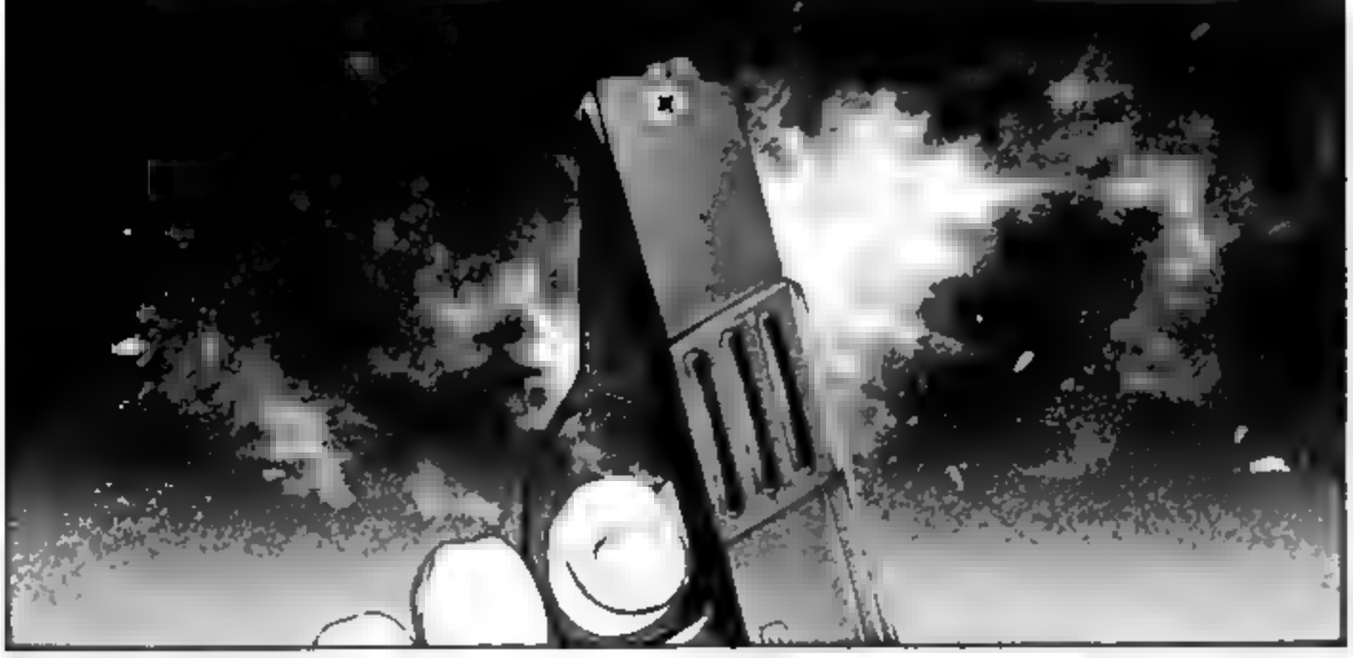
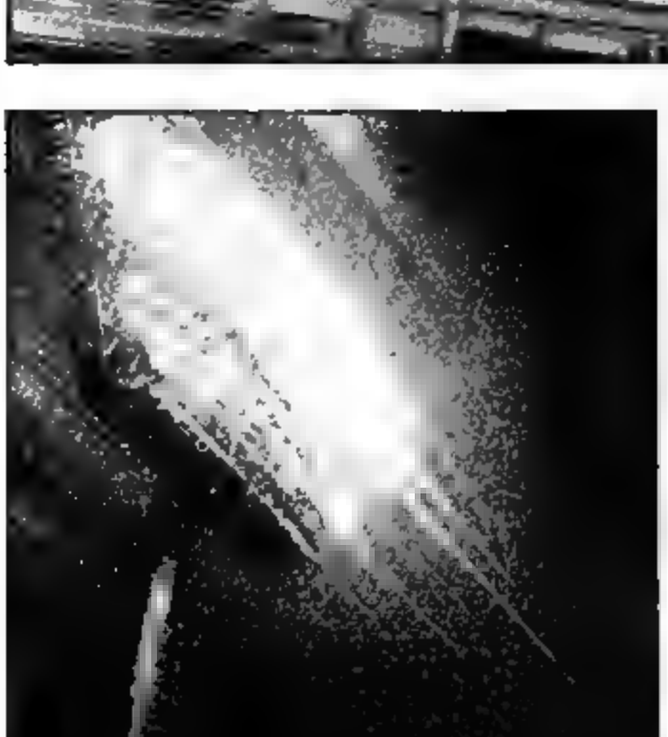
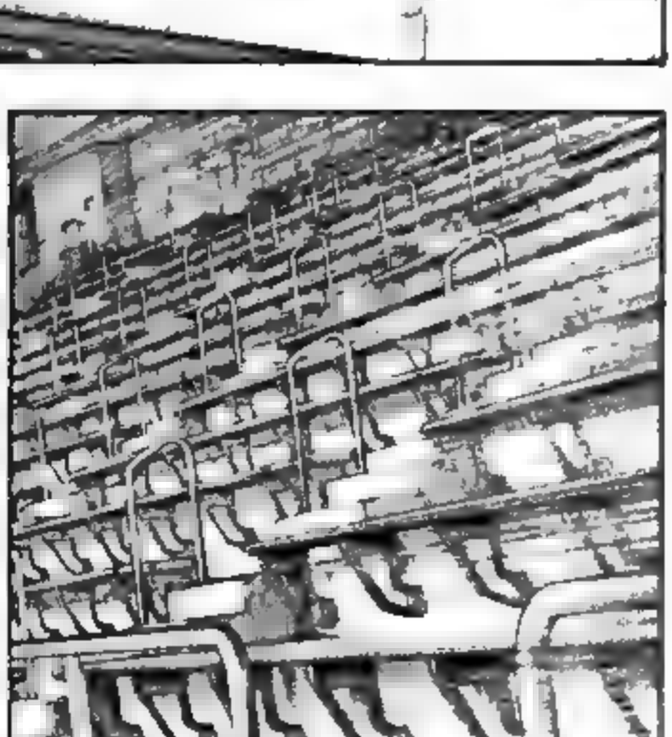
#155 - Ecstasy

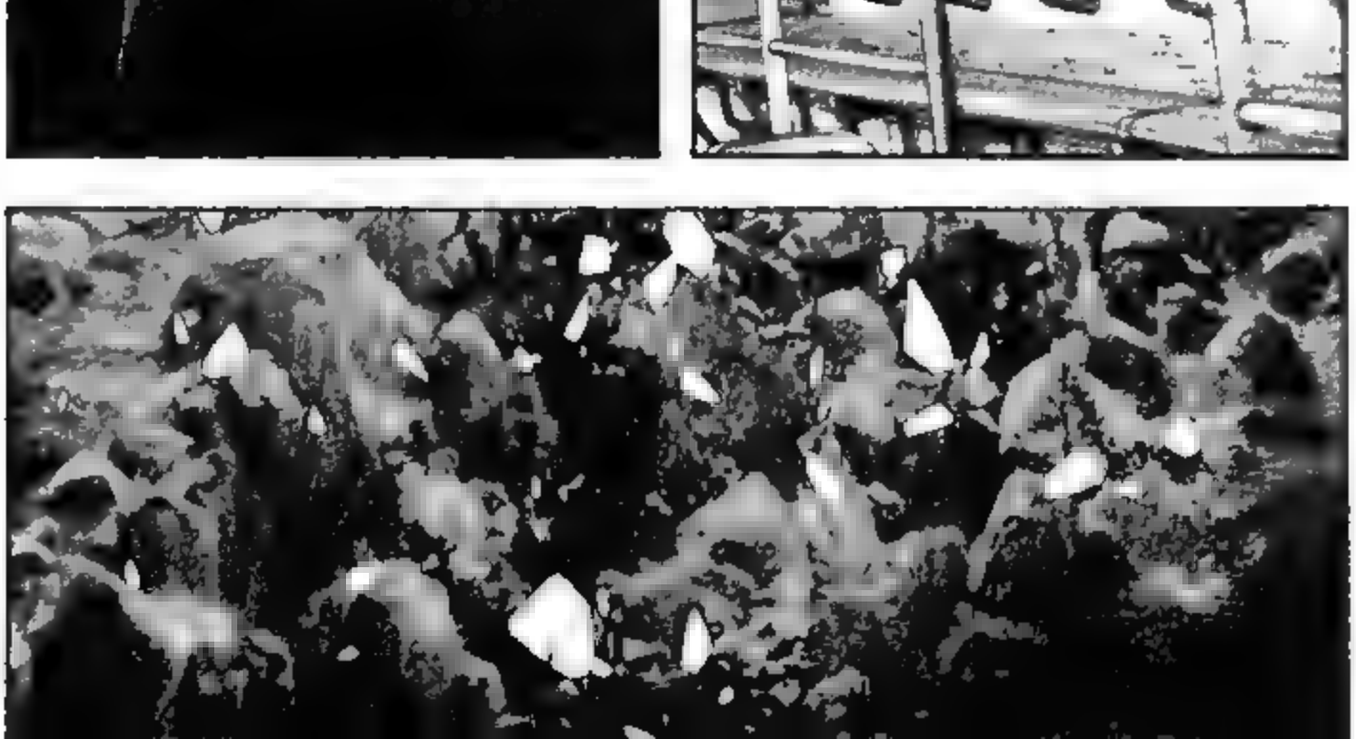


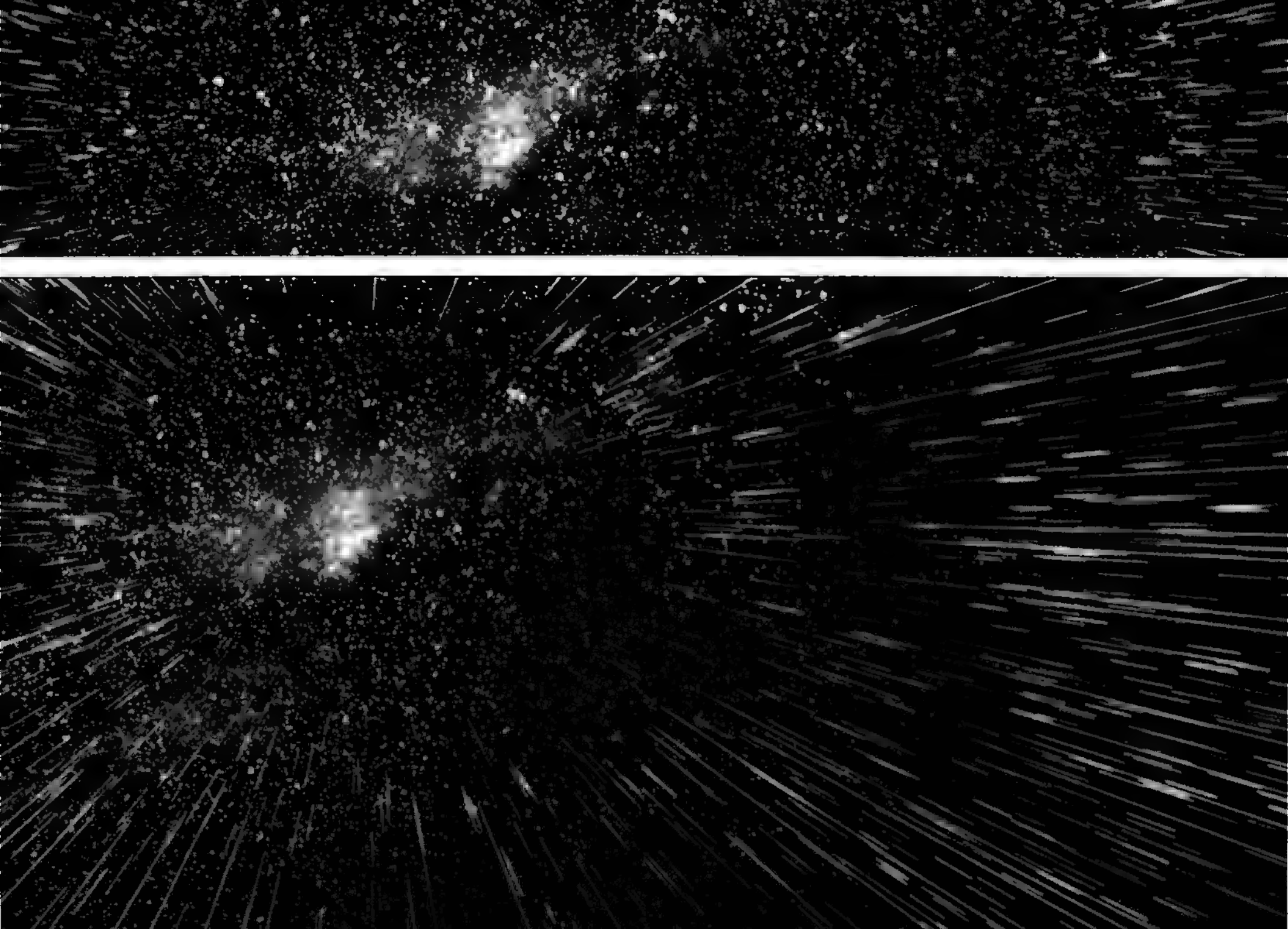
#155 - Ecstasy











July 22th
5:02 AM
K2 East-Face 6500m
Bivouac Point (1)
Air Temperature -14.5 ℃

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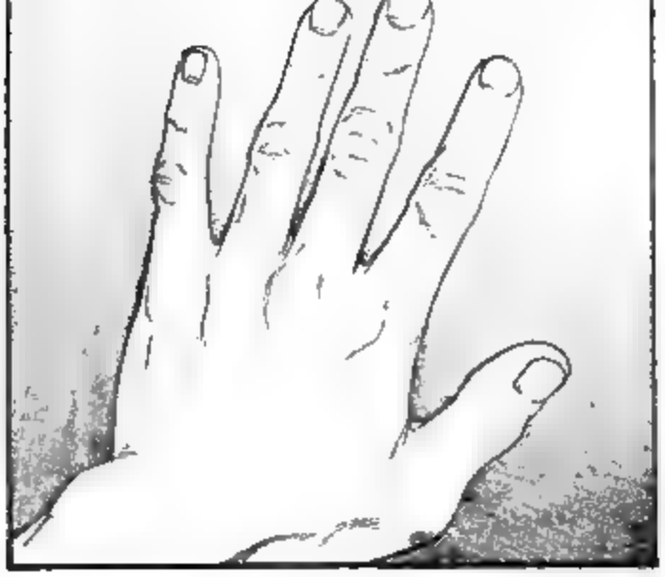
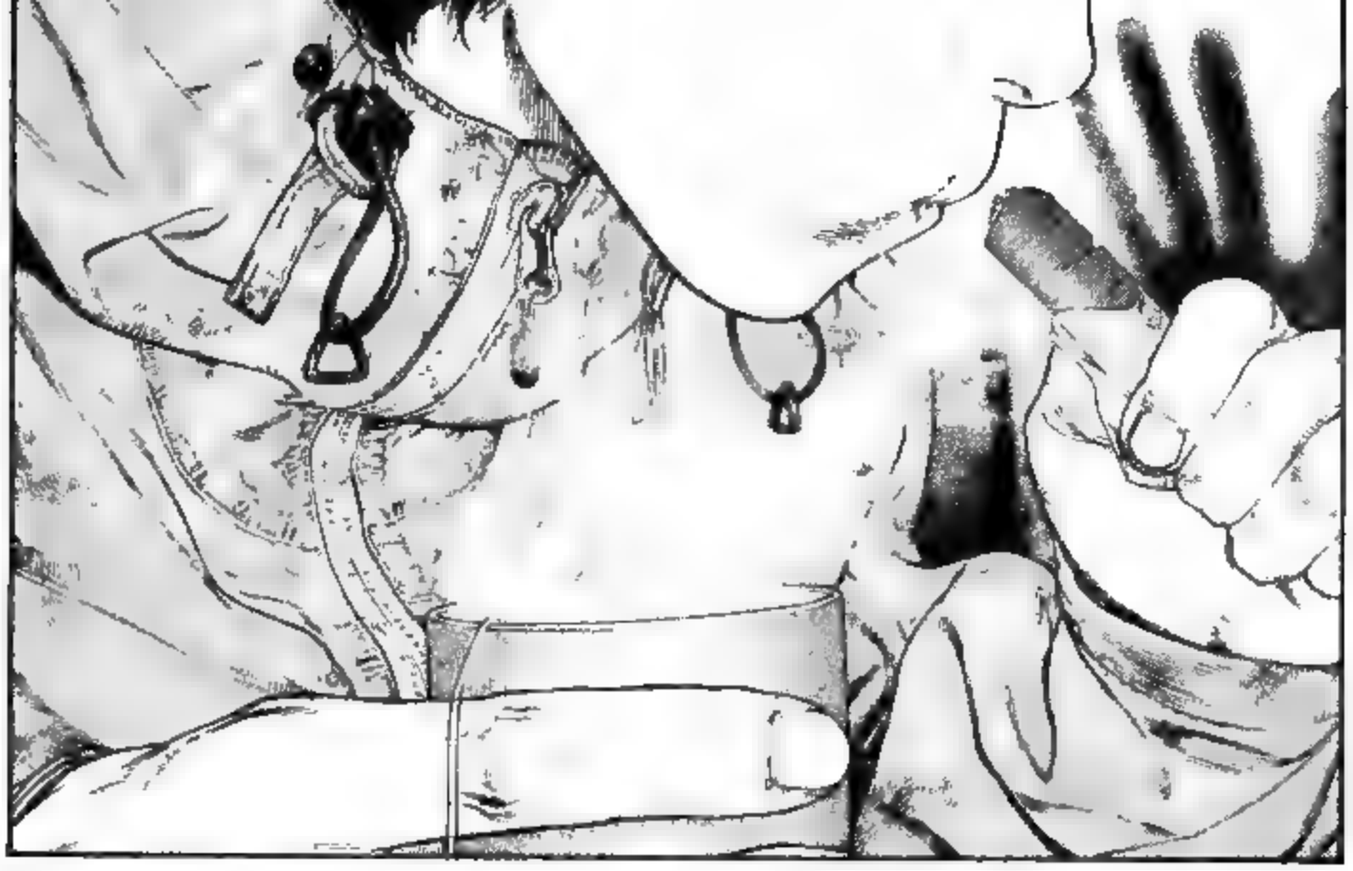
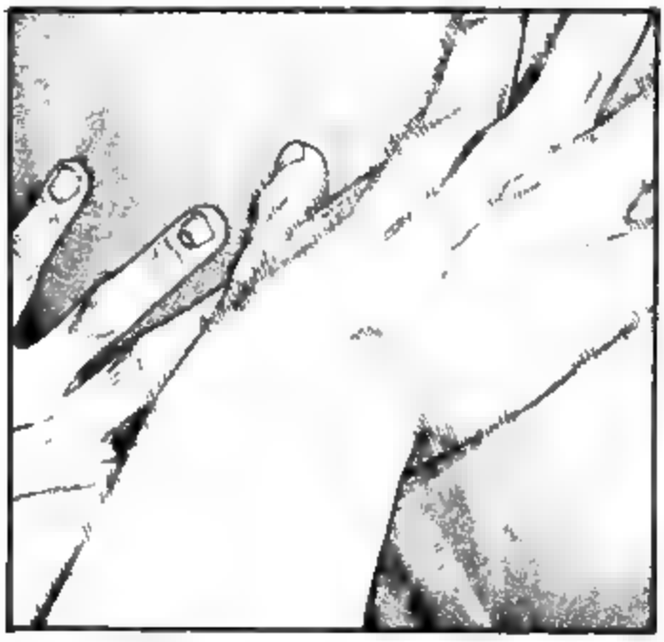
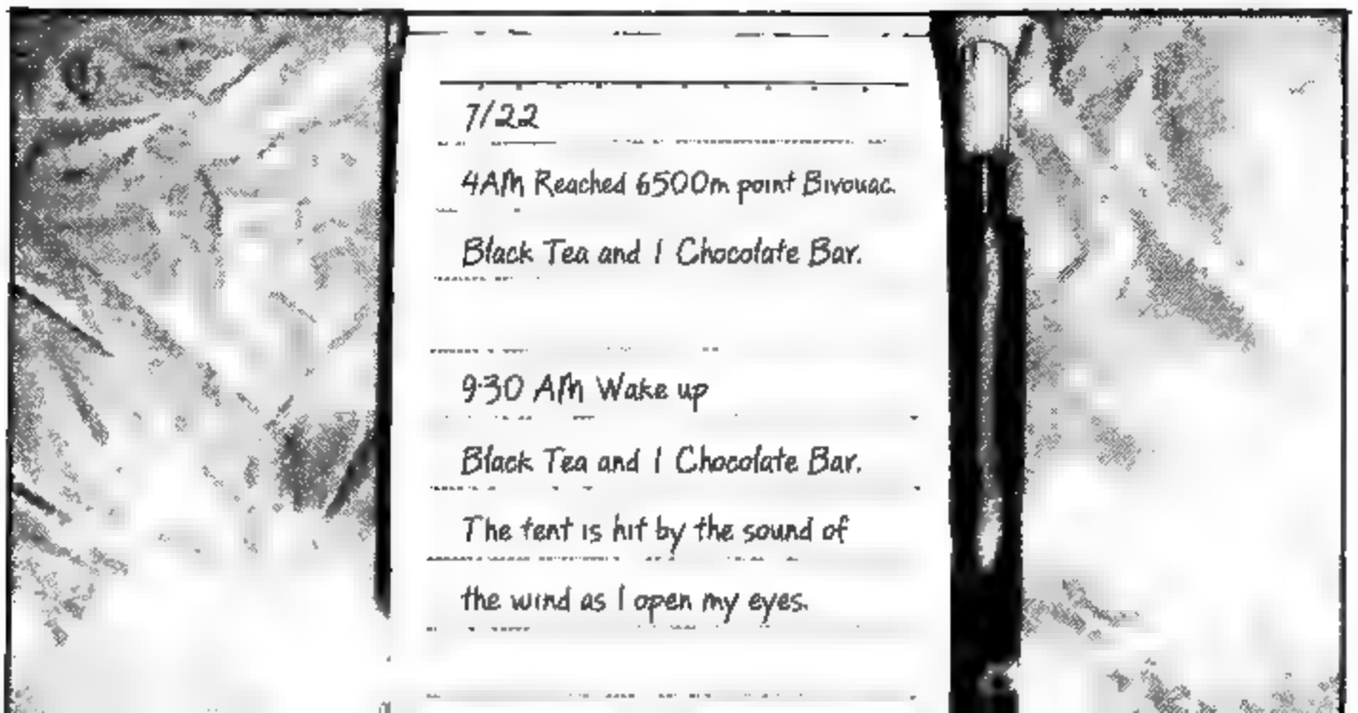
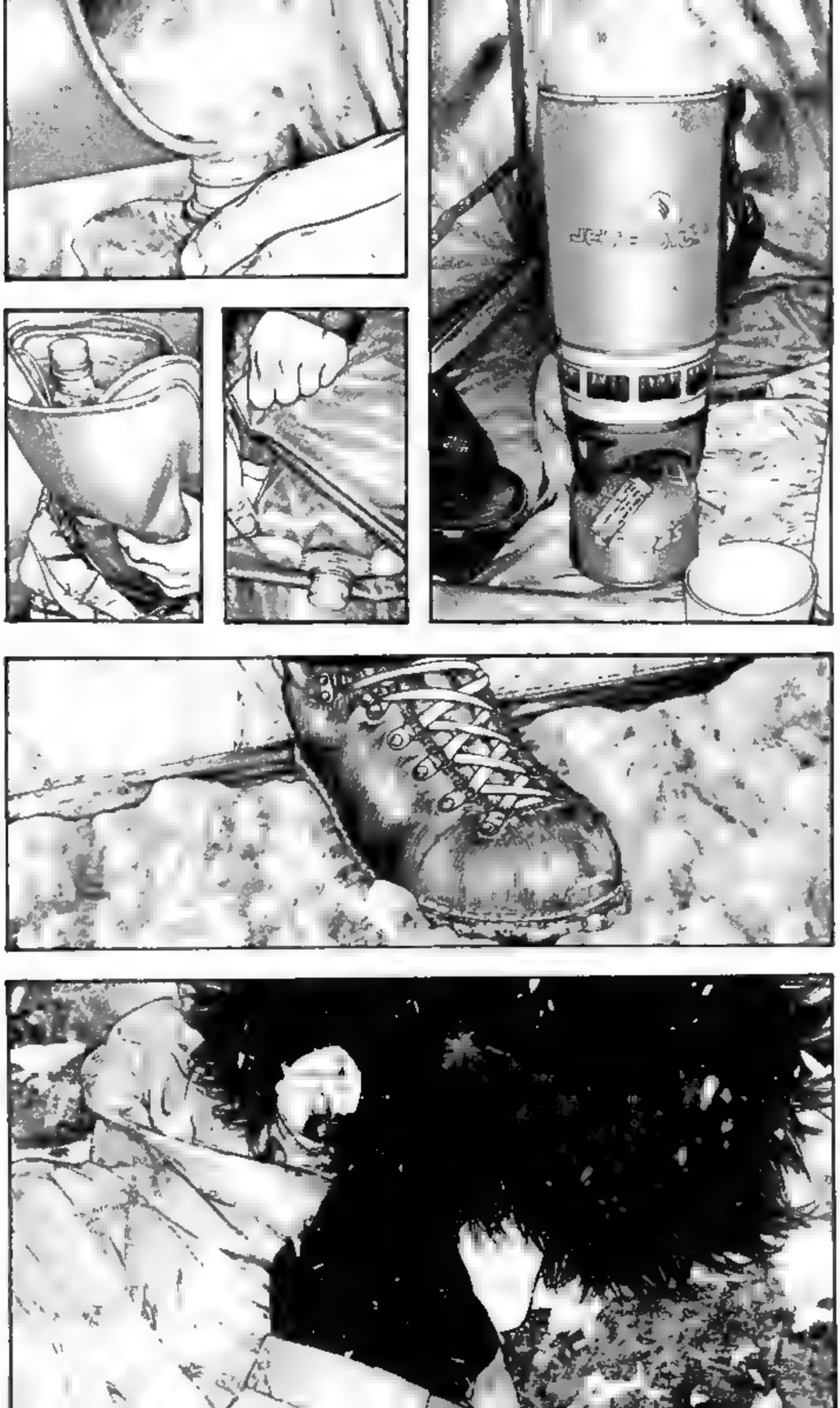


#156 - Immorality

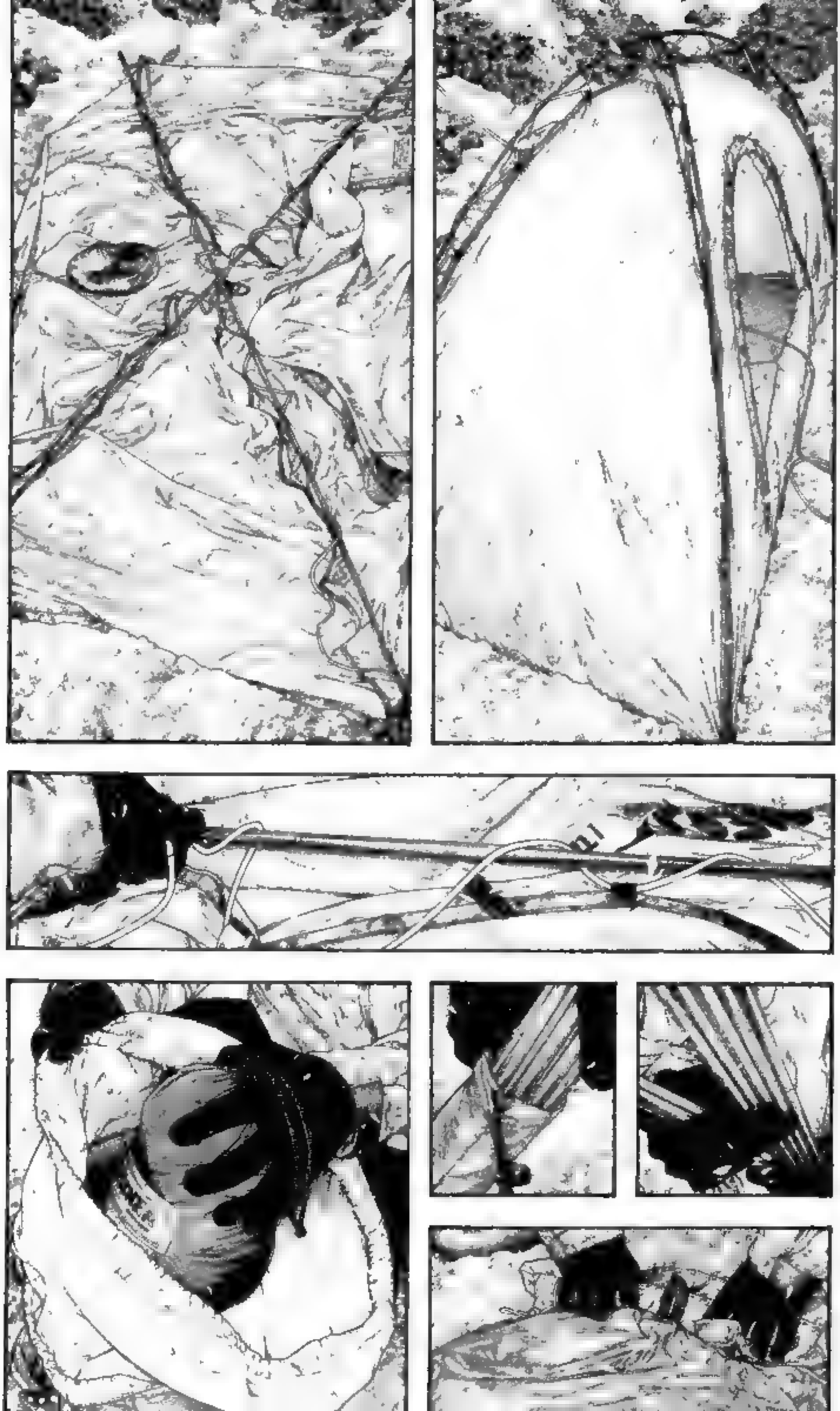


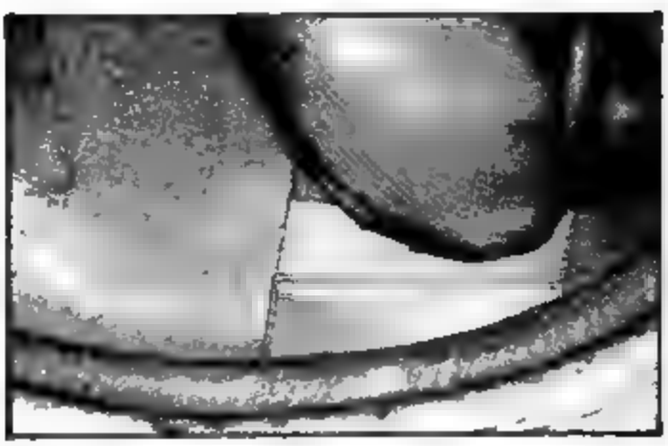


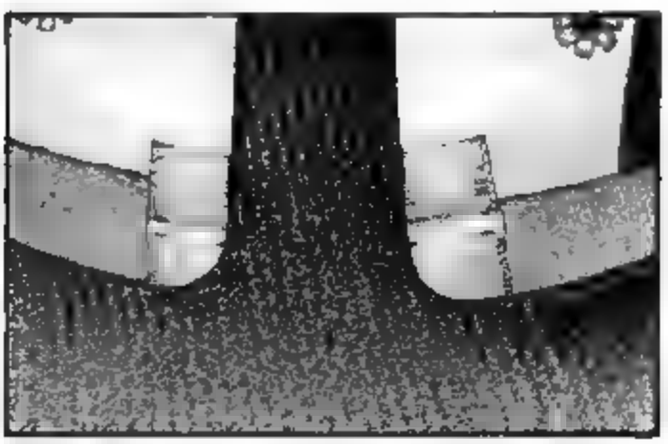

7/22
4AM Reached 6500m point Bivouac.
Black Tea and 1 Chocolate Bar.
9:30 AM Wake up
Black Tea and 1 Chocolate Bar.
The tent is hit by the sound of
the wind as I open my eyes.

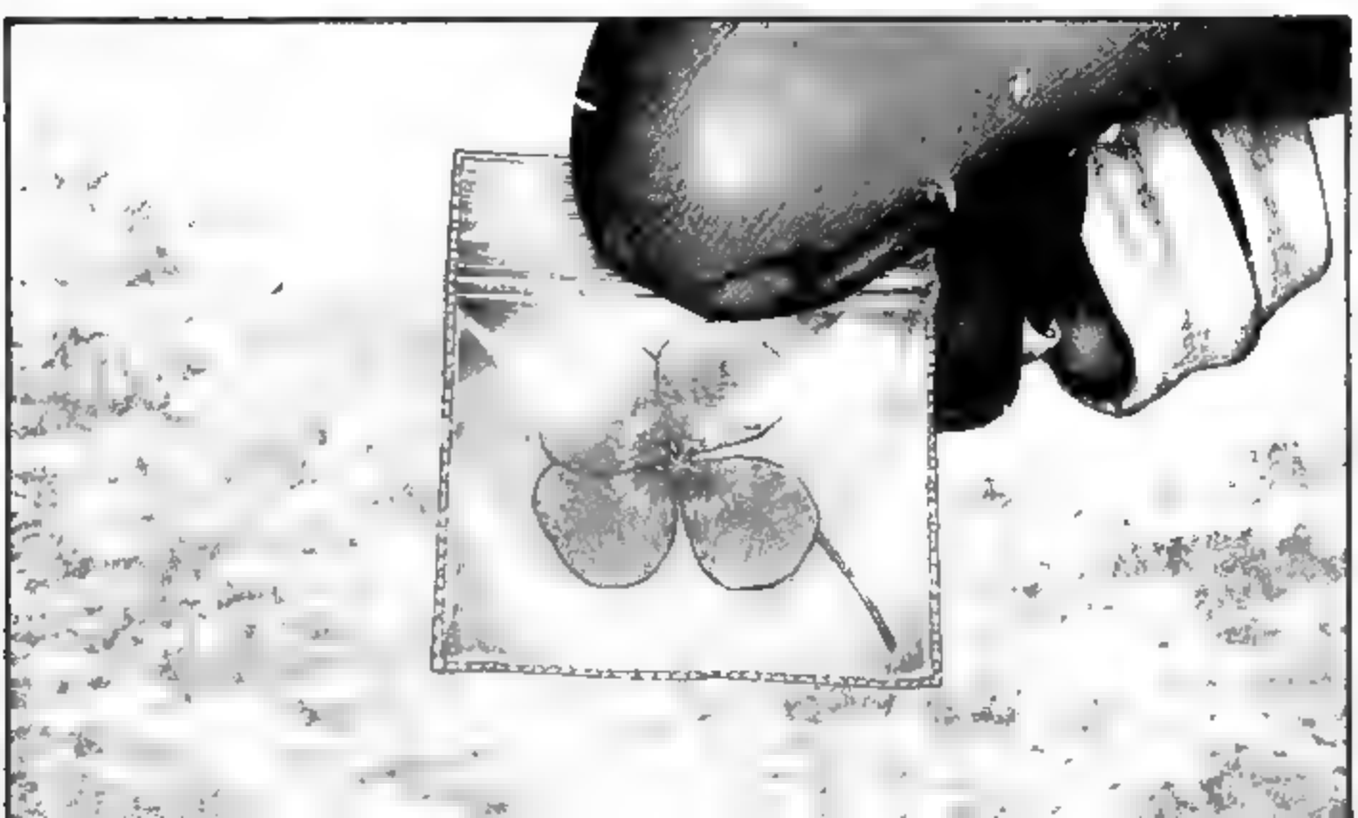


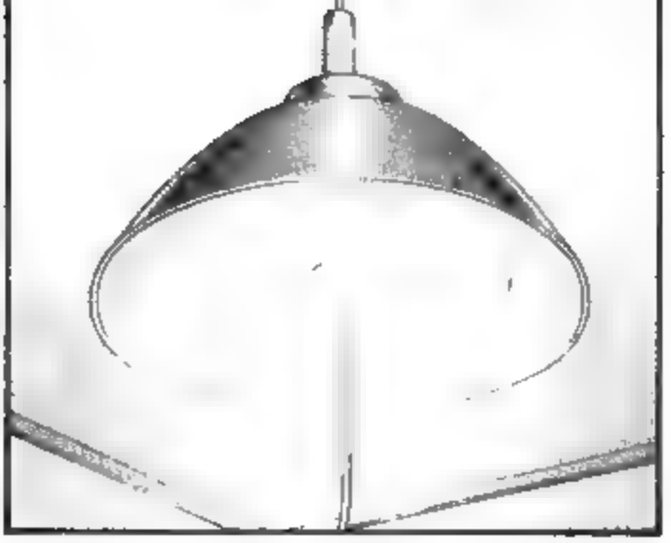
#156 - Immorality

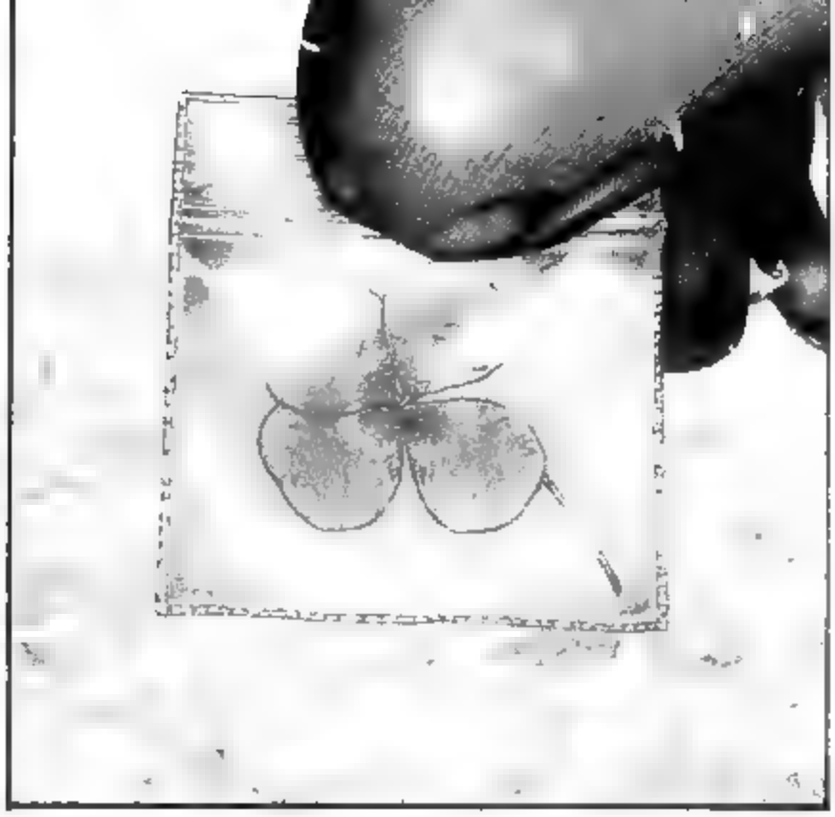


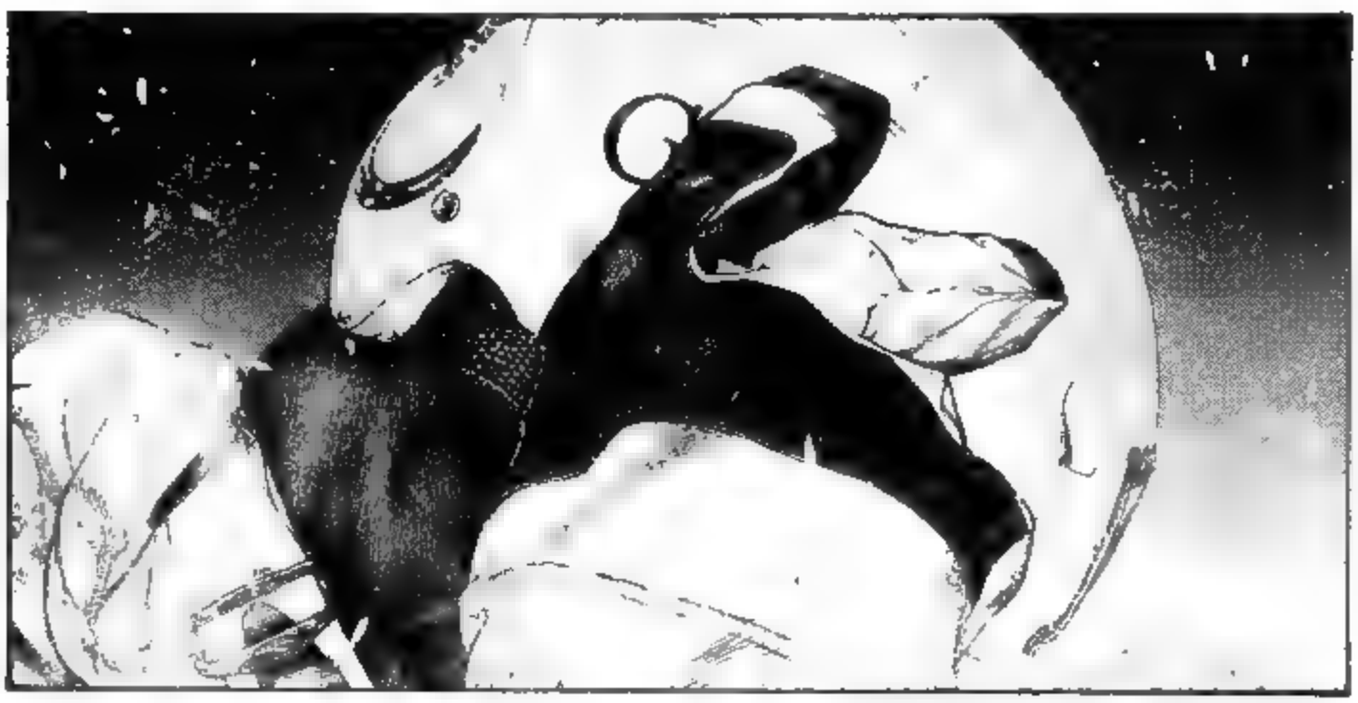


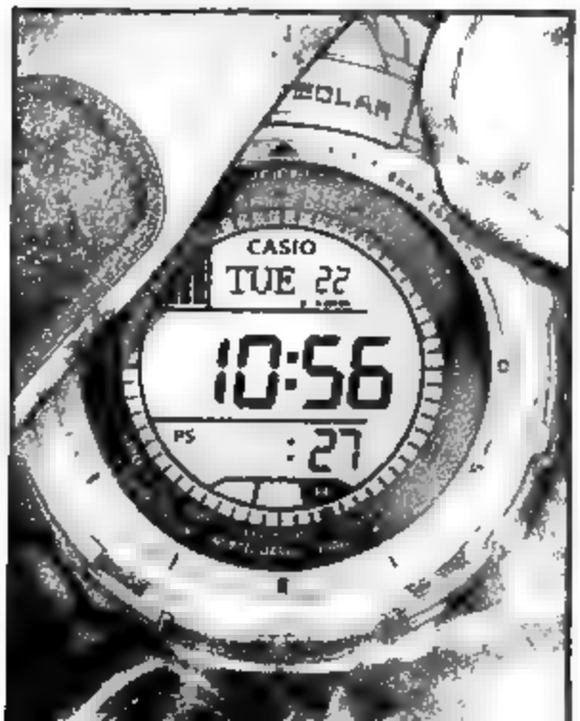




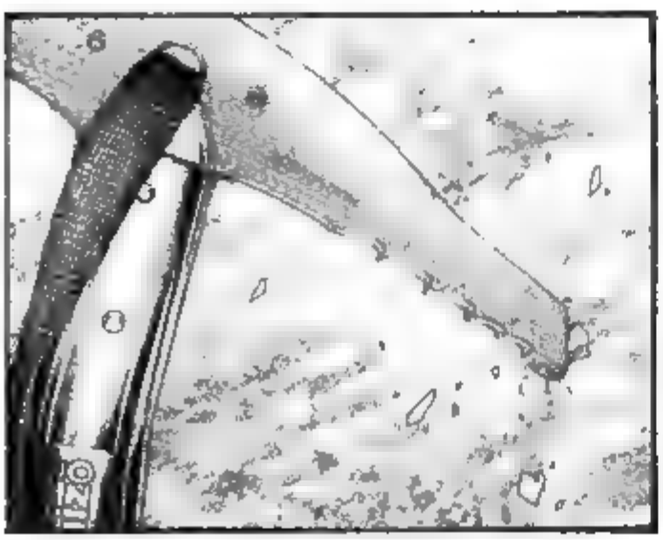


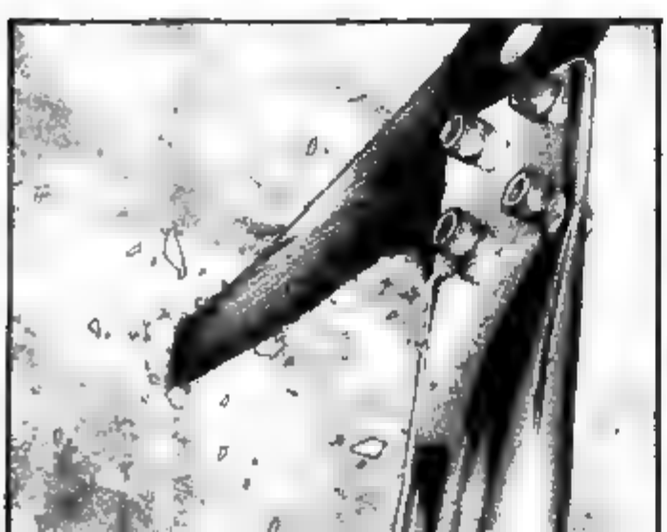


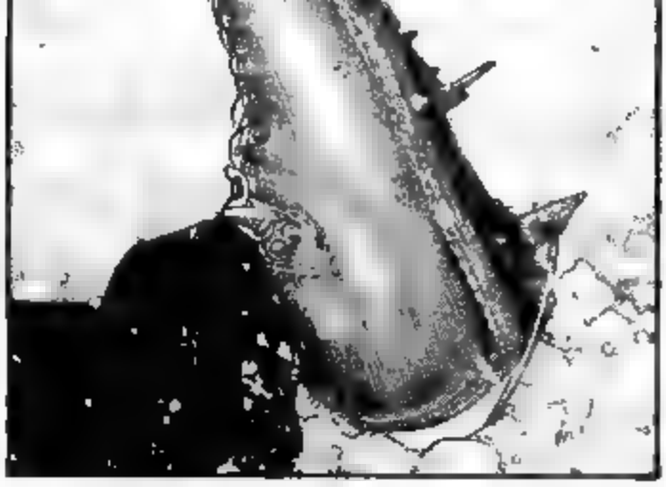


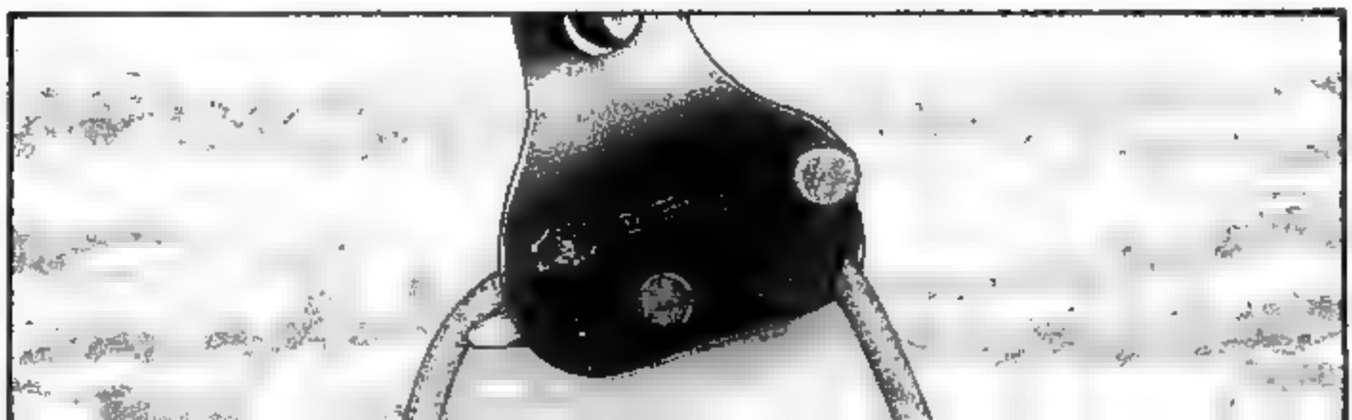

SOLAR
CASIO
TUE 22
10:56
PS
:27

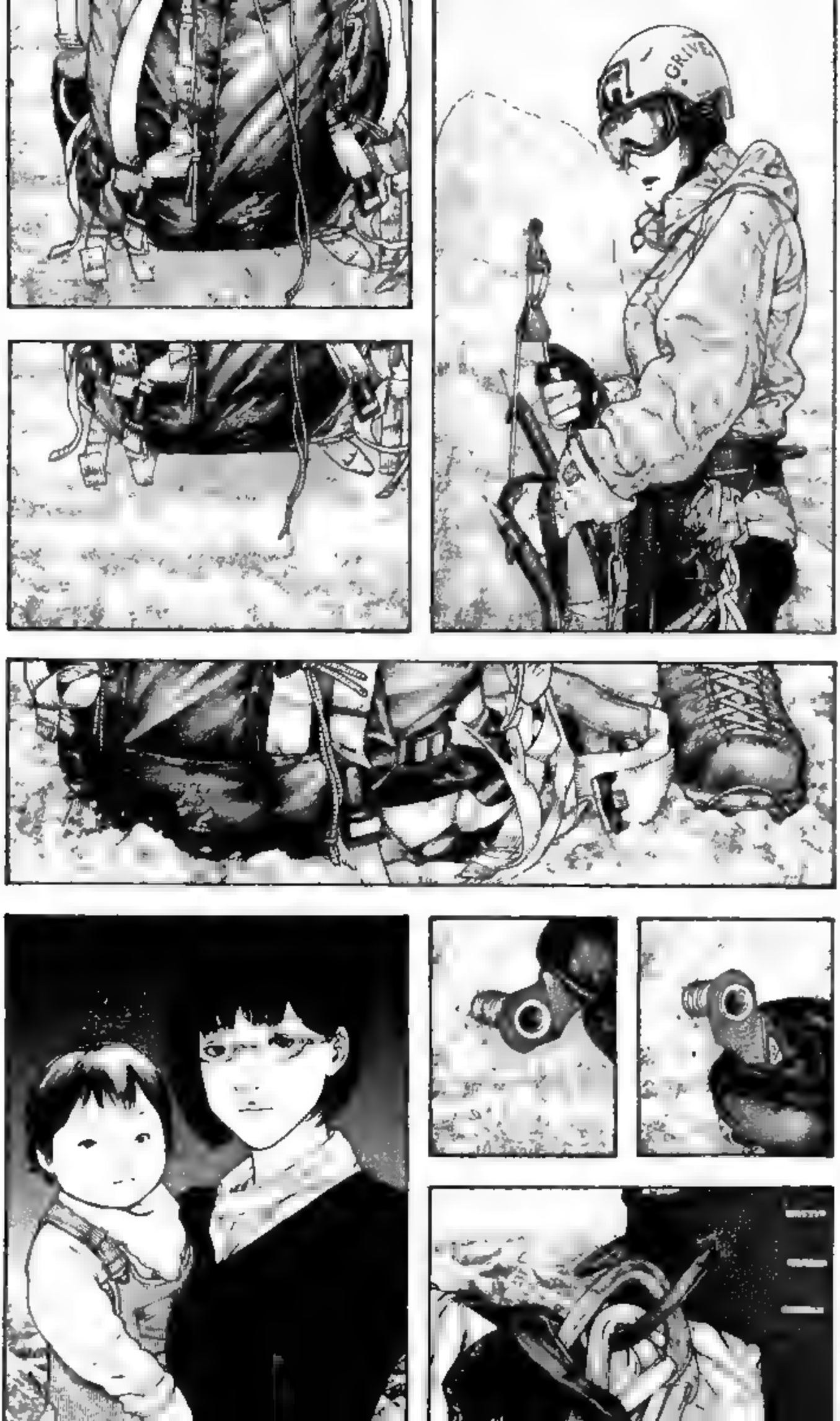
JULY 23RD, 11 AM.
DEPAR-TING ON SCHEDULE.

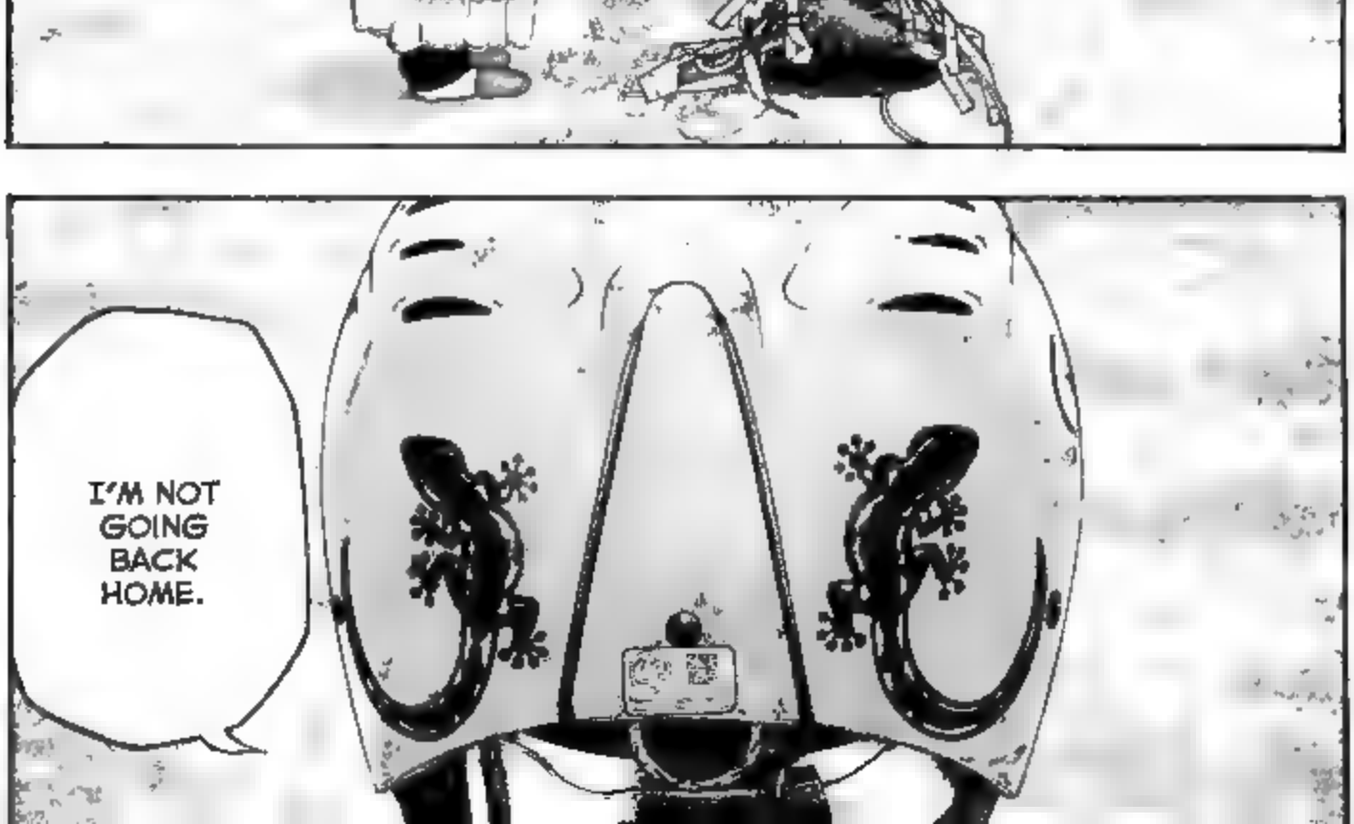


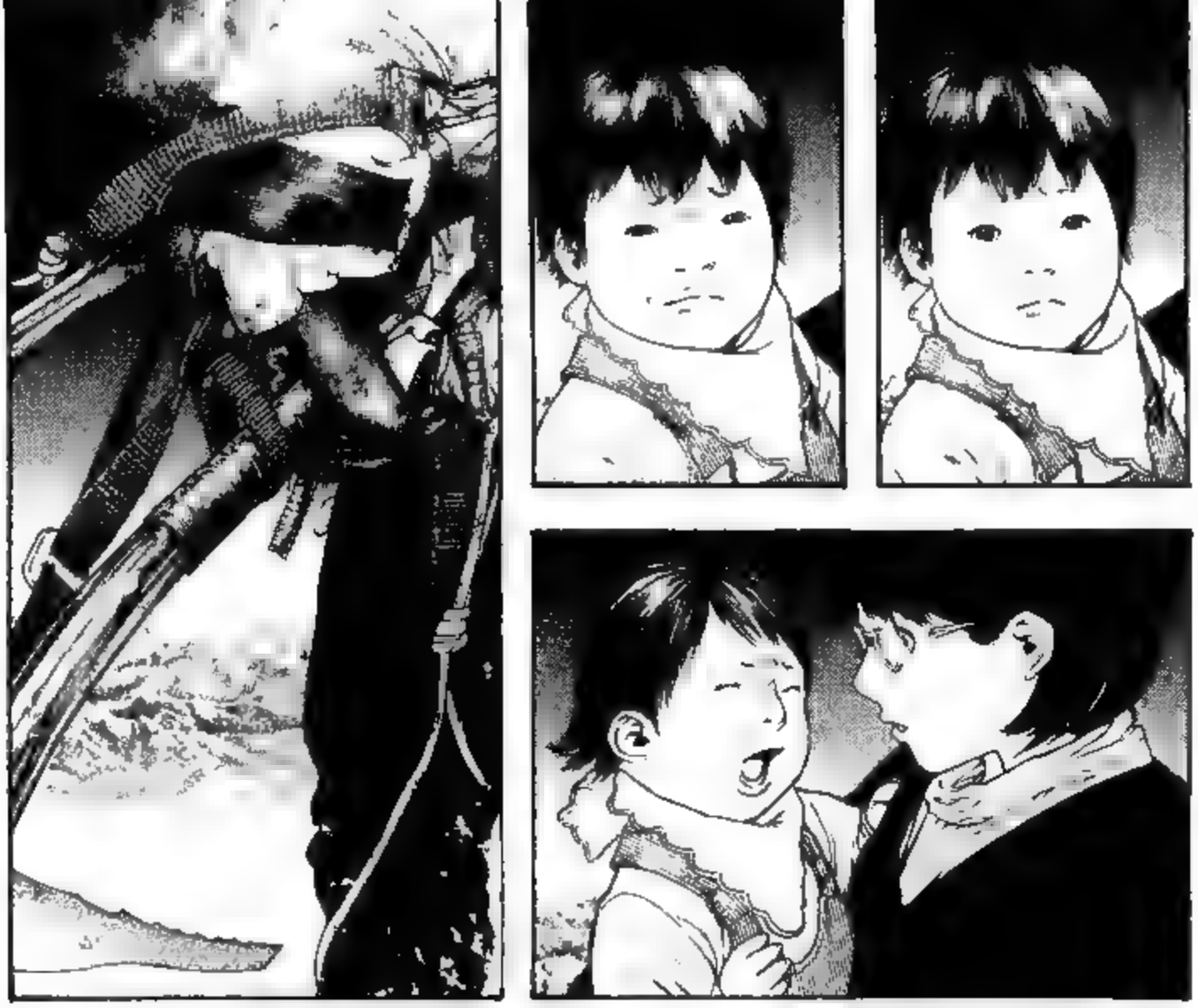








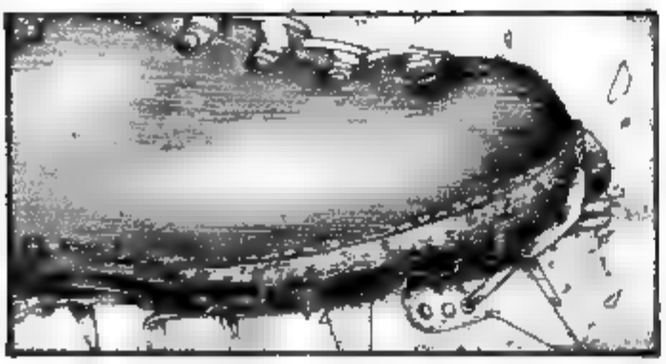

I'M NOT GOING BACK HOME.

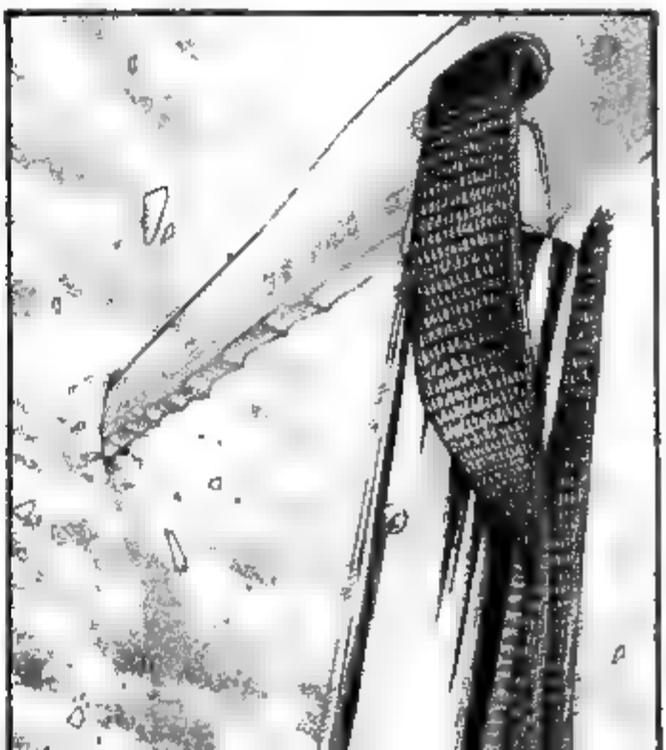


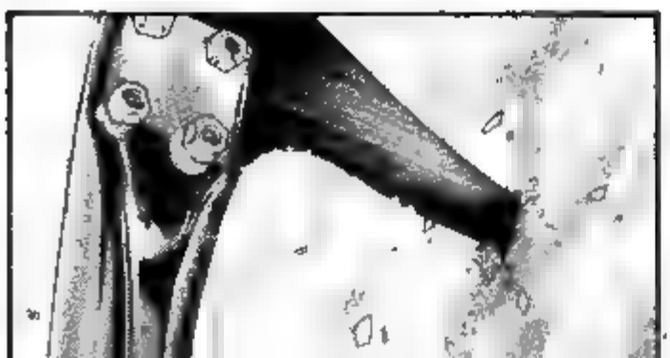
I'M NO LONGER...
A PERSON.

AT THAT MOMENT
NOTHING MATTERED ANYMORE.

I...
can no longer remember my family's faces.







I LOVE MOUNTAINS.
I NO LONGER CARE IF I DIE HERE.

KOKOU NO HITO

by Authors: NABEDA Yoshiro and NITTA Jiro
by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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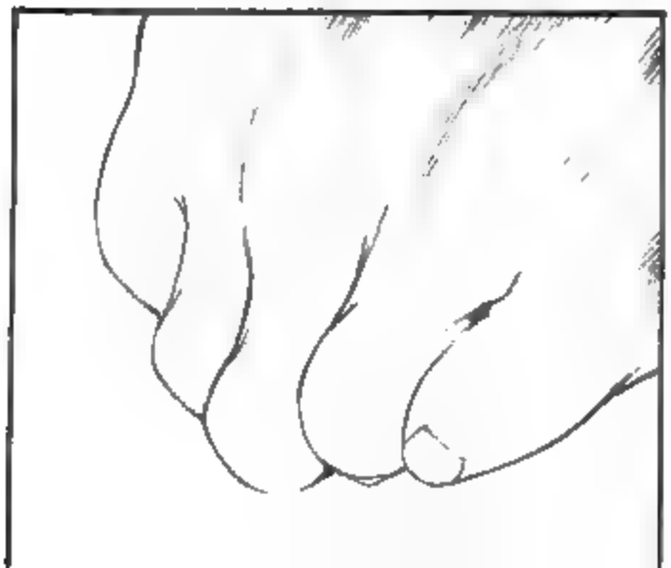
#157- Enjoying Pleasure Together

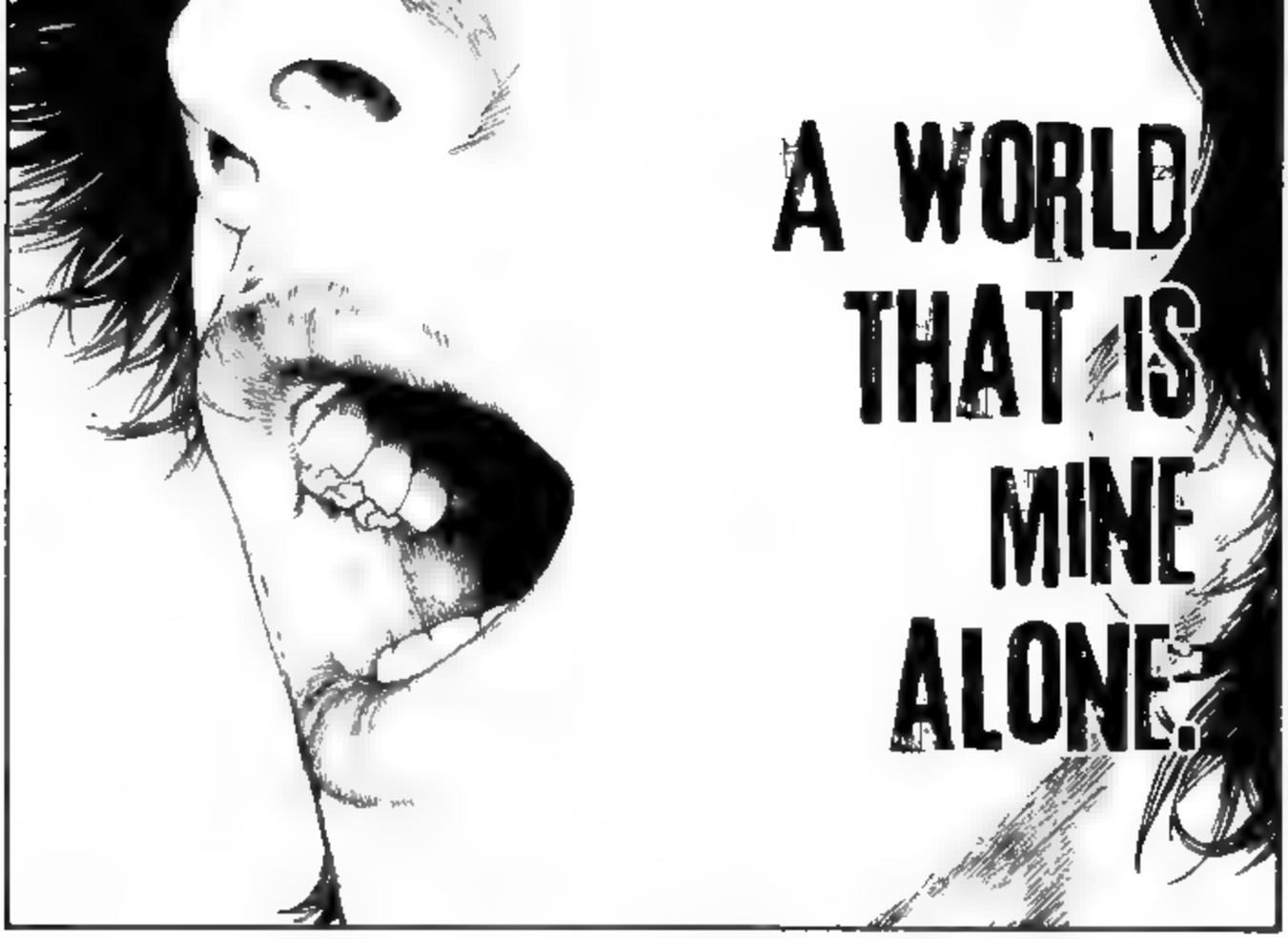
#157 - Enjoying Pleasure Together

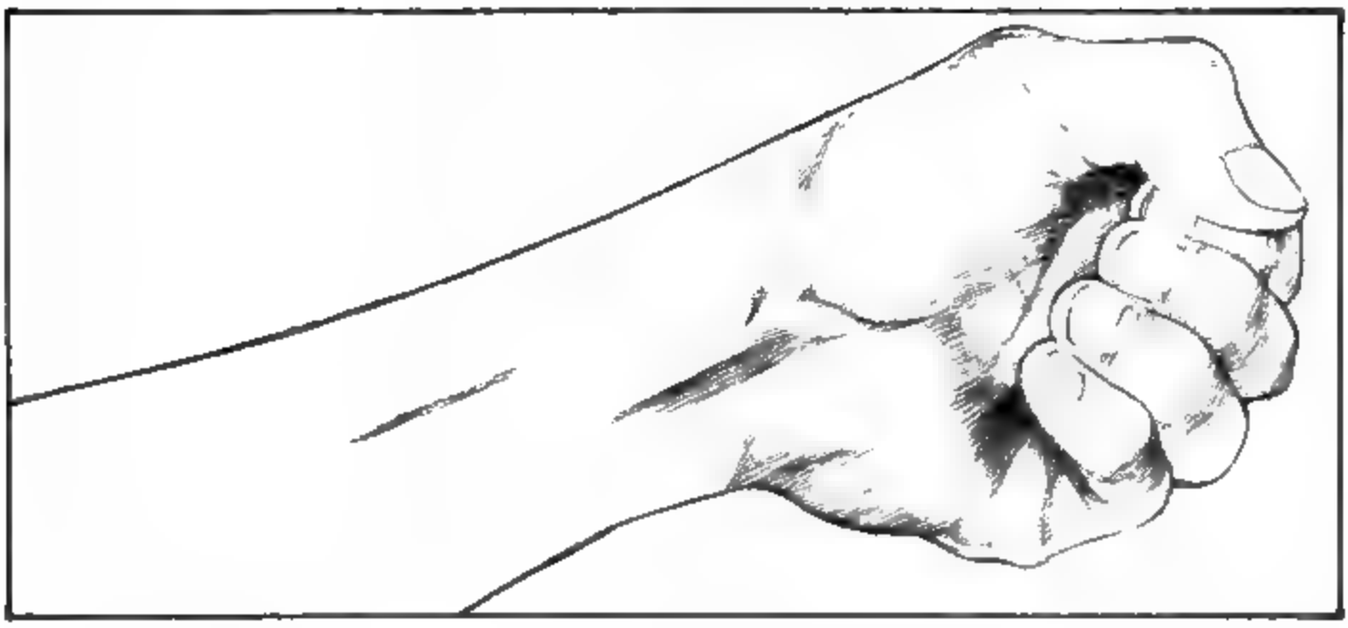
I finally made it this far.

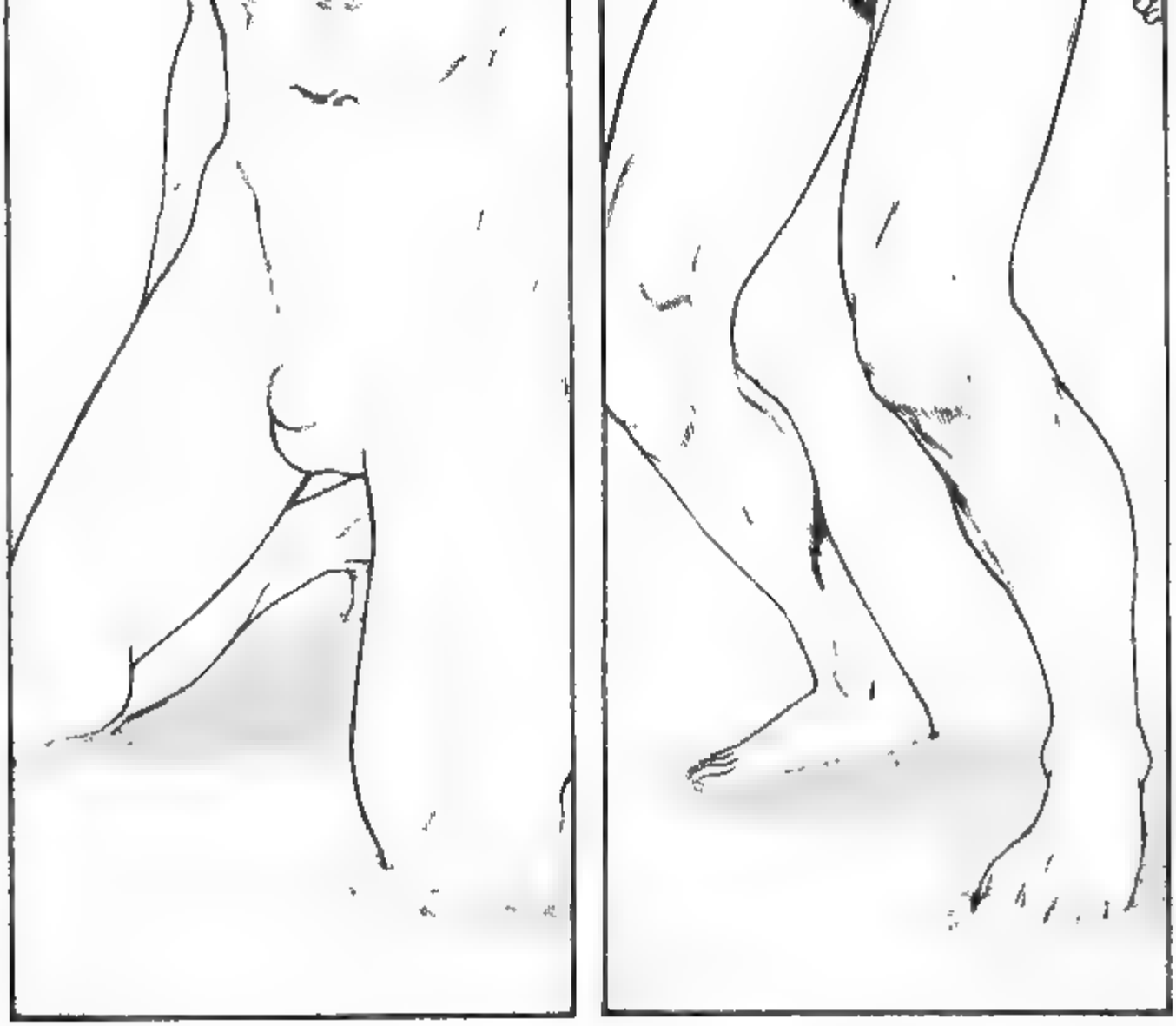
Beyond here is...

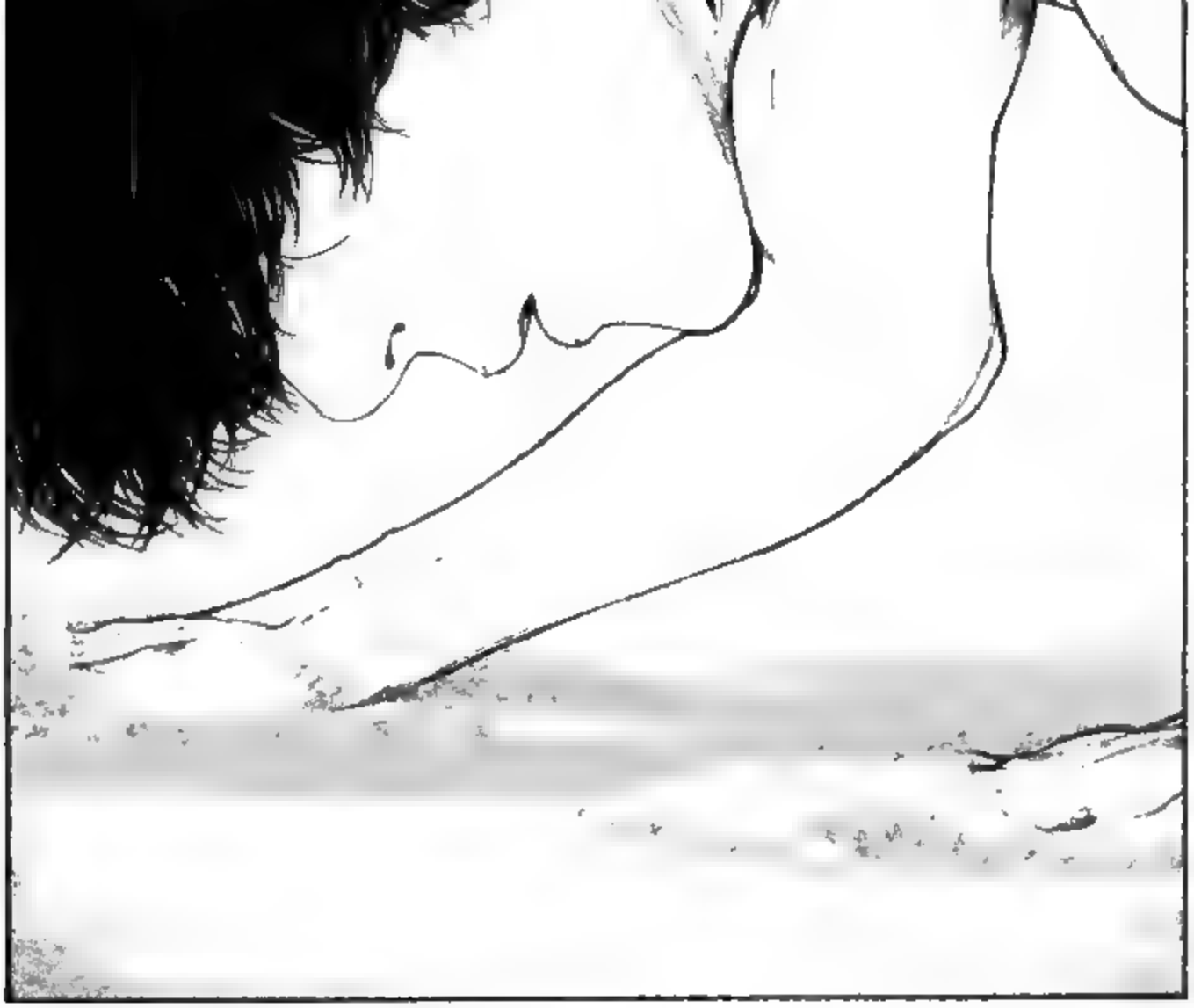


The great snow field of the K2 East-Face at 7450m.
Virgin land never before touched by anyone.


A WORLD
THAT IS
MINE
ALONE.







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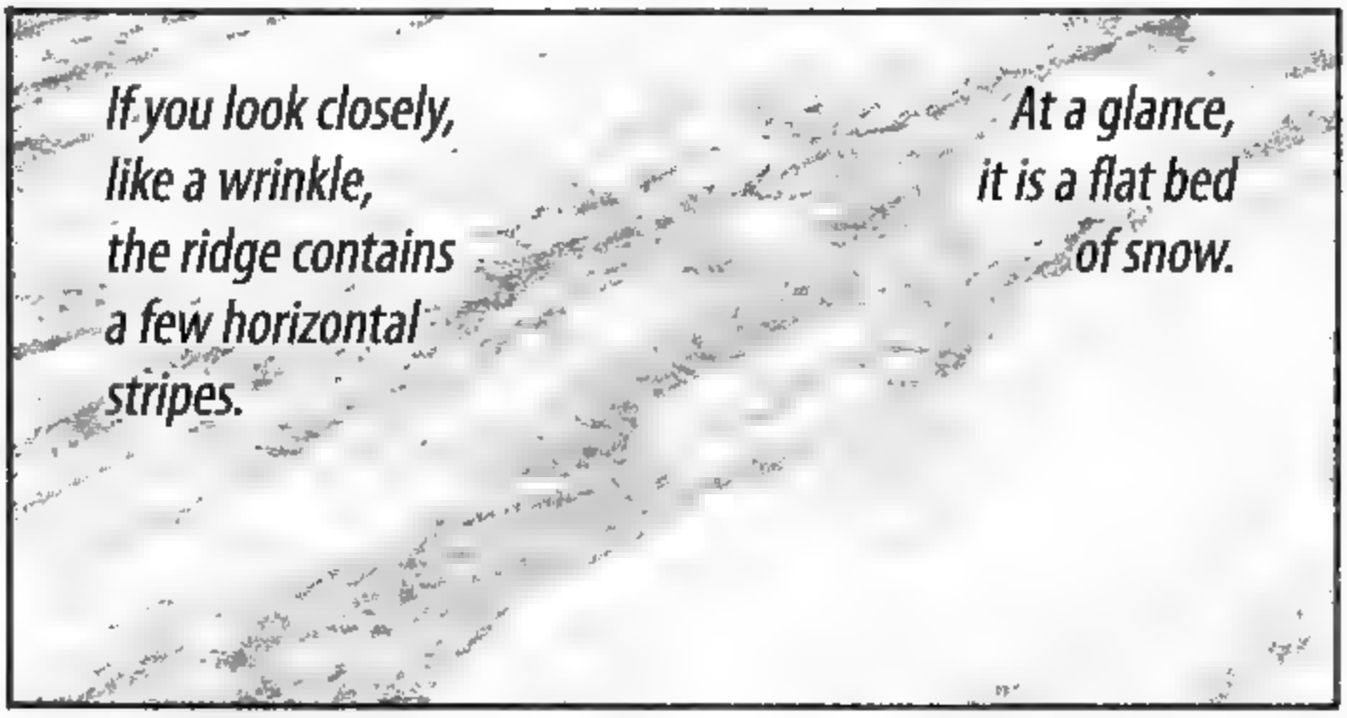
The gentle vast slope of snow.

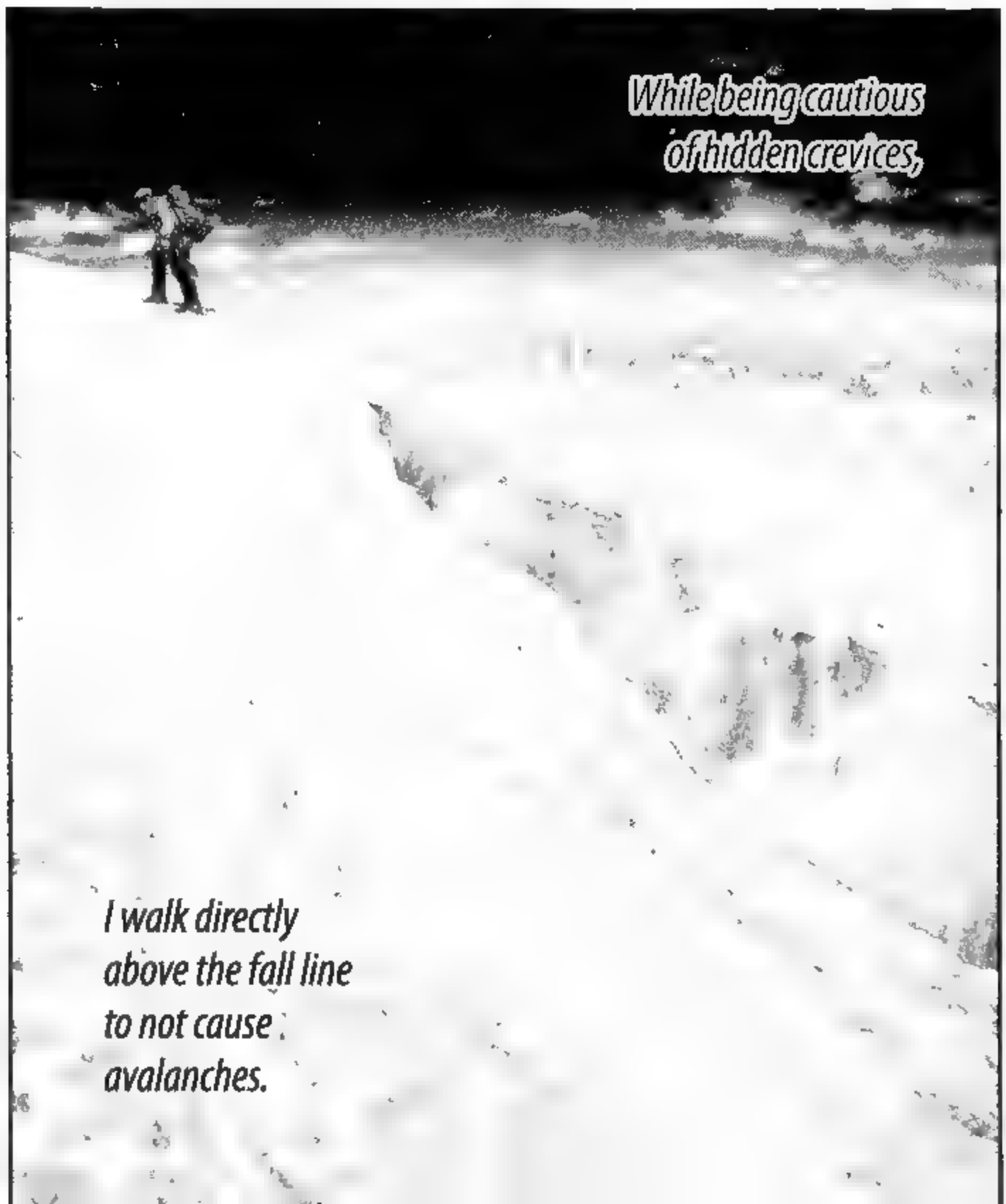
On endlessly continuing around 30 degree slope, sometimes, like creases, it becomes a 45 to 60 degree incline.

#158 - Inhuman

The incline cannot be seen with the eyes.


If you look closely, like a wrinkle, the ridge contains a few horizontal stripes.
At a glance, it is a flat bed of snow.

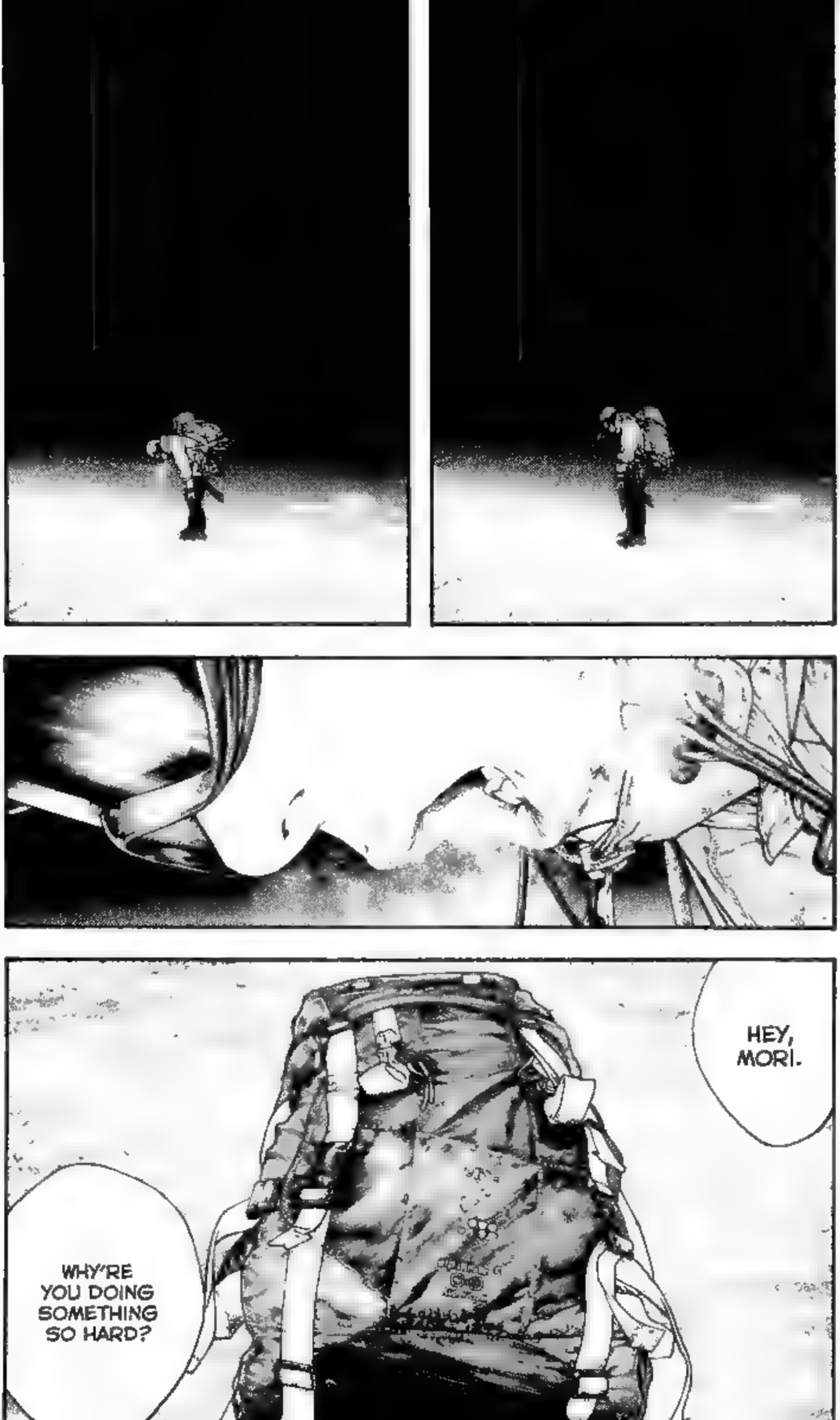
A HIDDEN CREVICE.


While being cautious
of hidden crevices,
I walk directly
above the fall line
to not cause
avalanches.

For a portion where you cannot earn any elevation, it only eats up time and expends stamina.

An 8000m peak without any incline is actually hard to climb.

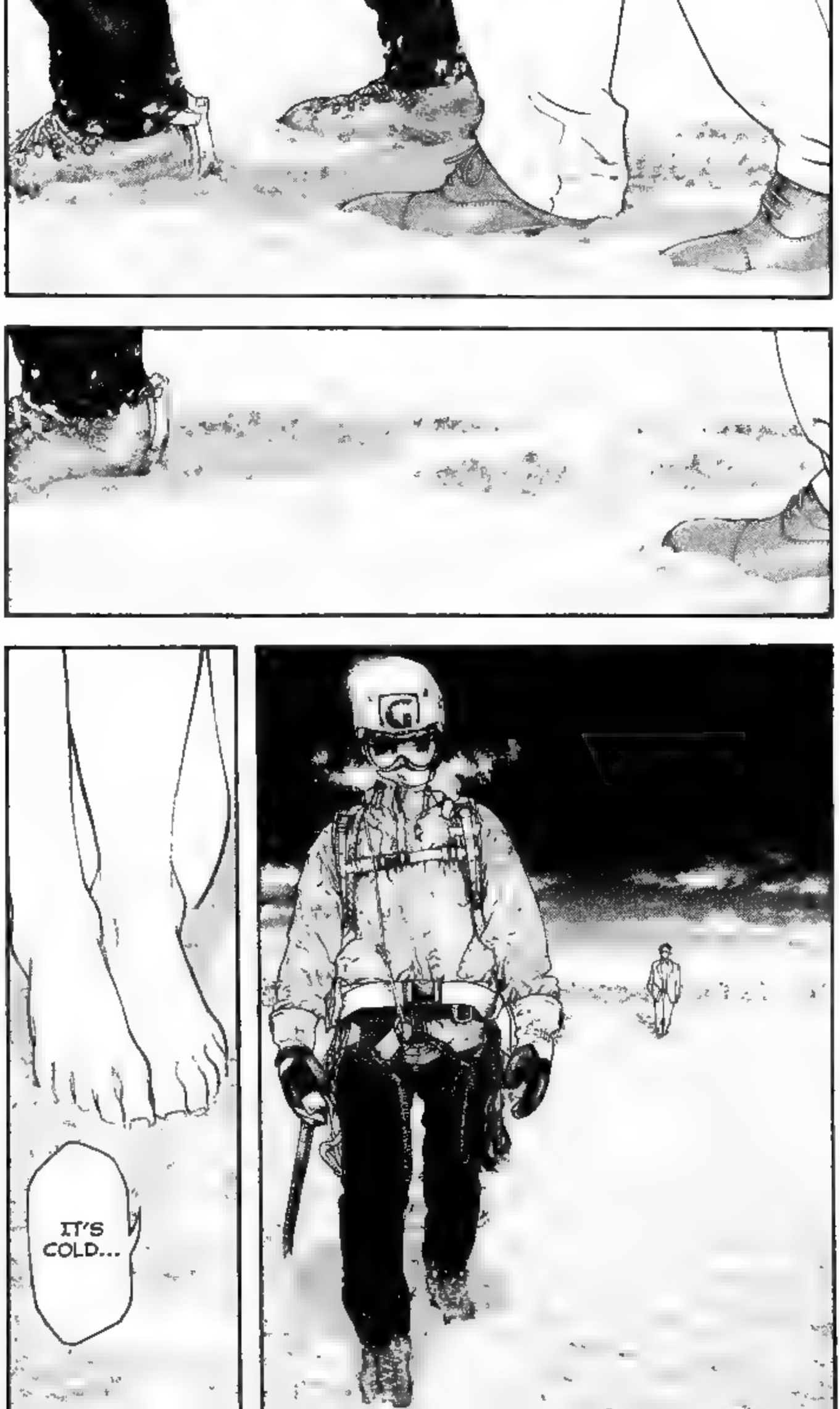
#158 - Inhuman


HEY, MORI.
WHY'RE YOU DOING SOMETHING SO HARD?

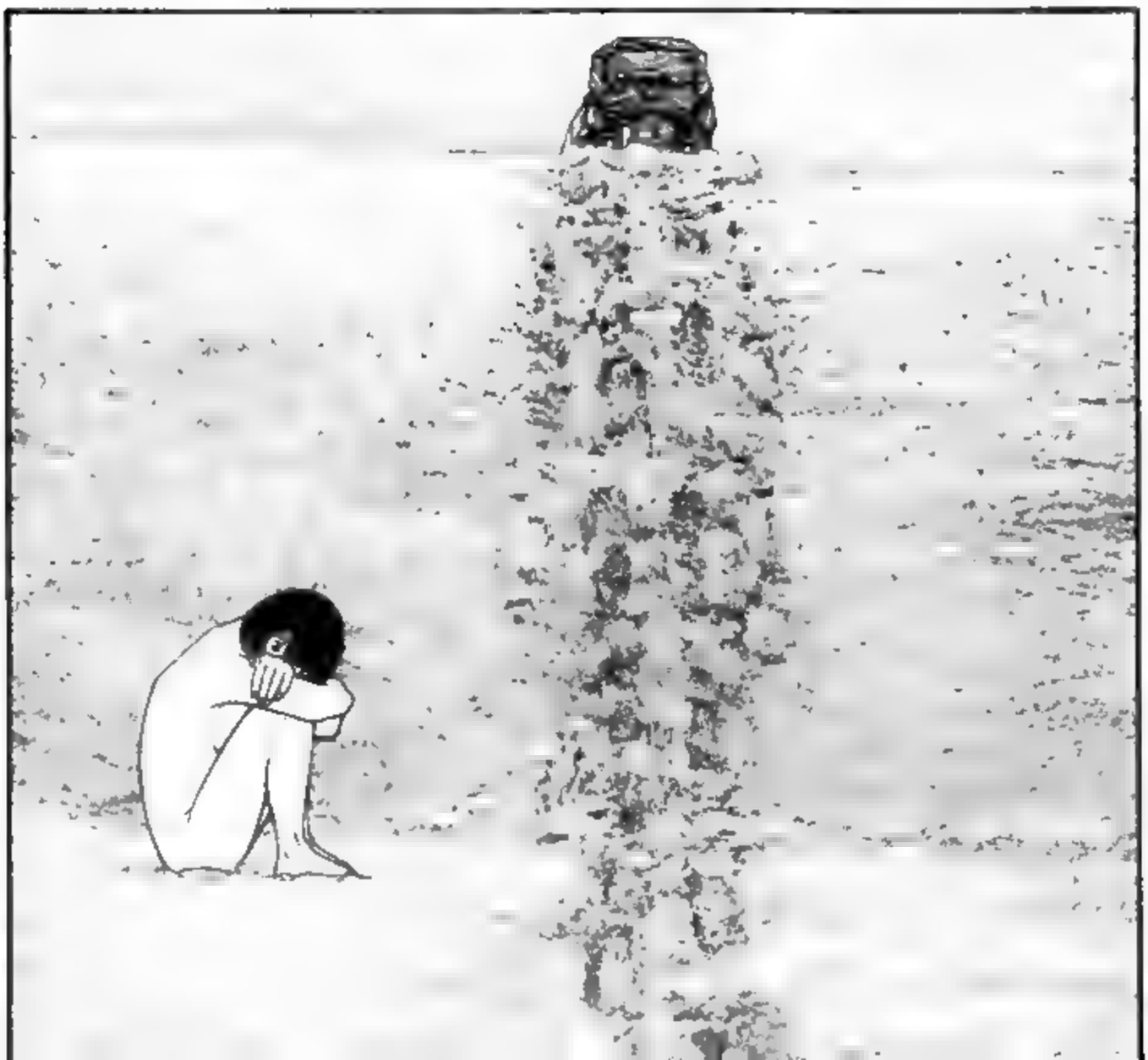
THE WEATHER'S FINALLY NICE.
WHY DON'T WE GO TO TAKATORI AND CLIMB IT OR SOMETHING?

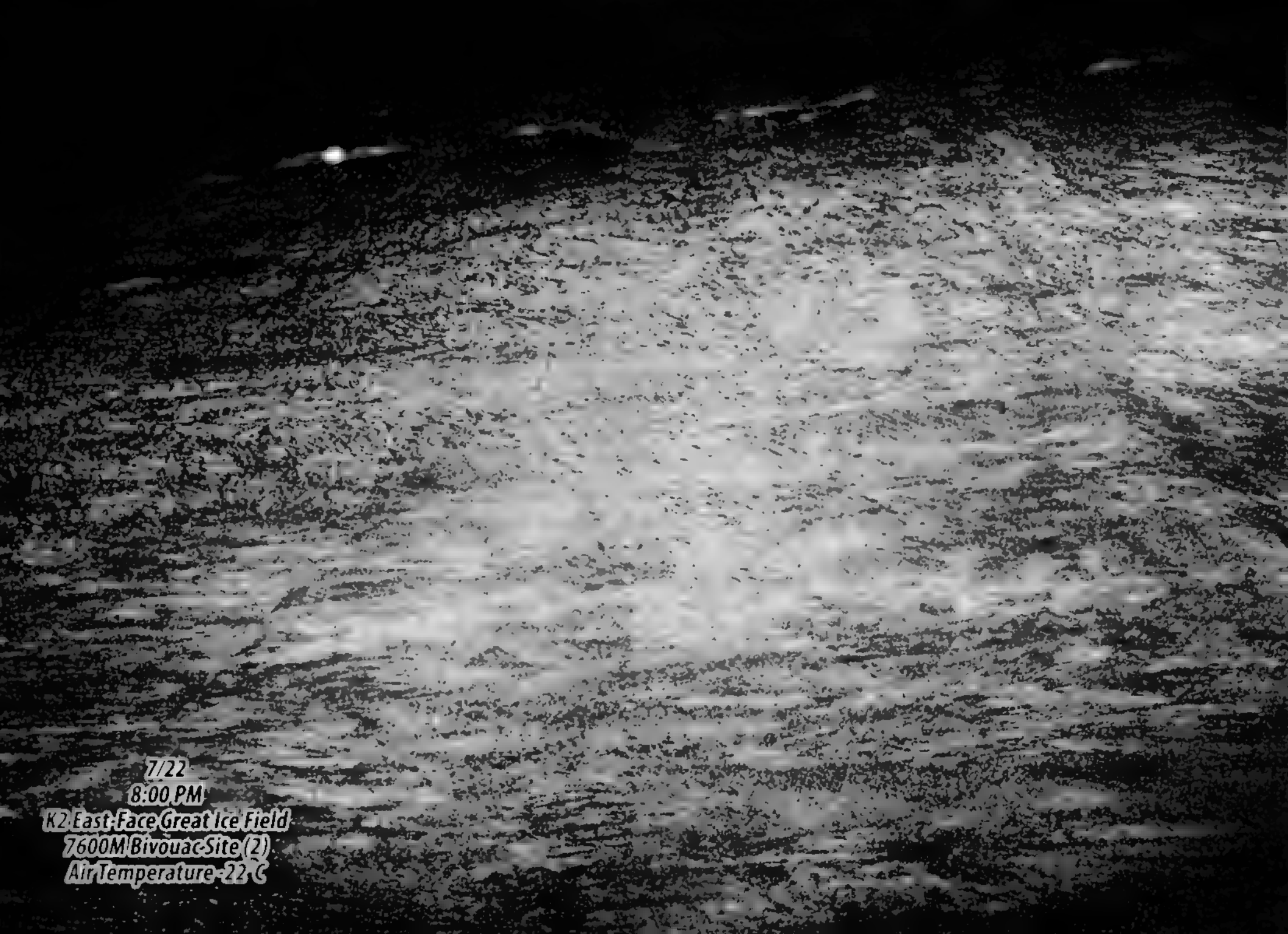
HOW ABOUT YOU COME BACK TO WORK SOON?
THE REQUESTS FOR YOU TO GO INVESTIGATE THINGS ARE PILING UP.

IF YOU USE UP YOUR WHOLE PAID VACATION LIKE THIS,
AFTER YOU'VE GOTTEN BACK TO THE COUNTRY, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GO TO YOUR FAVORITE MOUNTAINS.

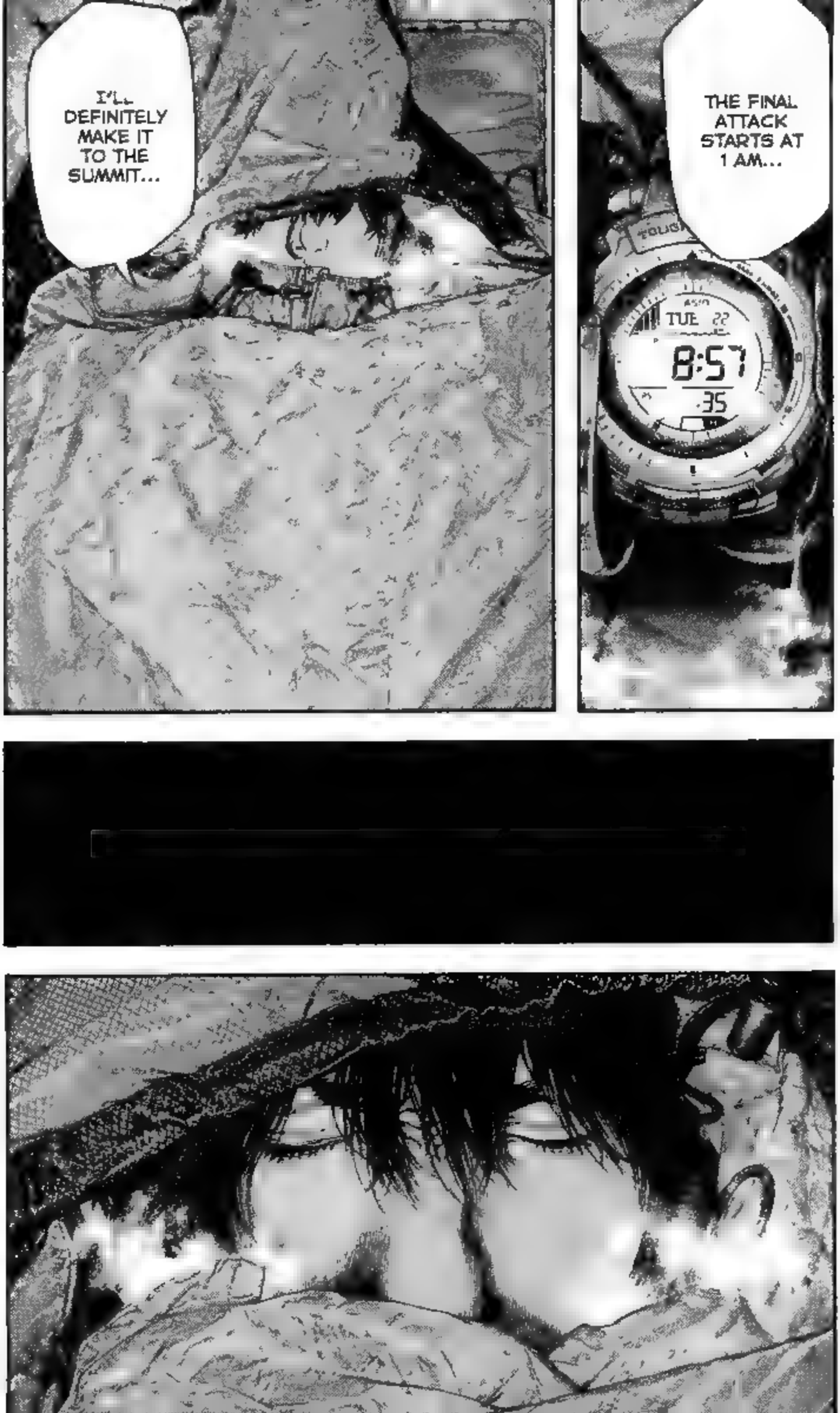

IT'S COLD...

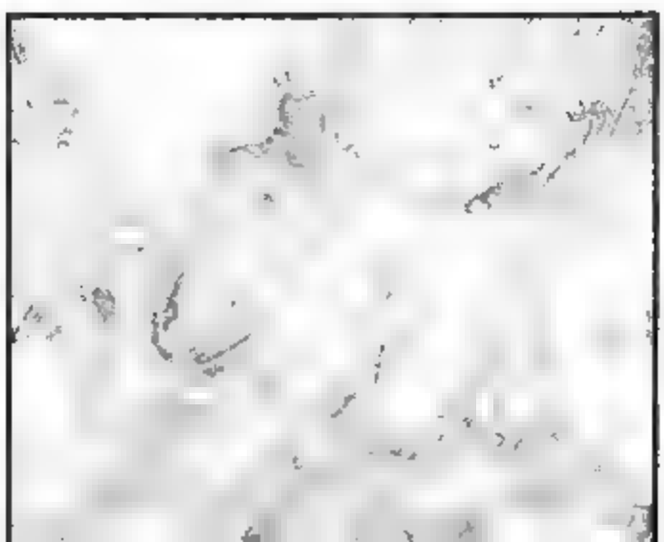
I'M LONELY ...
PLEASE HURRY HOME, BUN-CHAN...

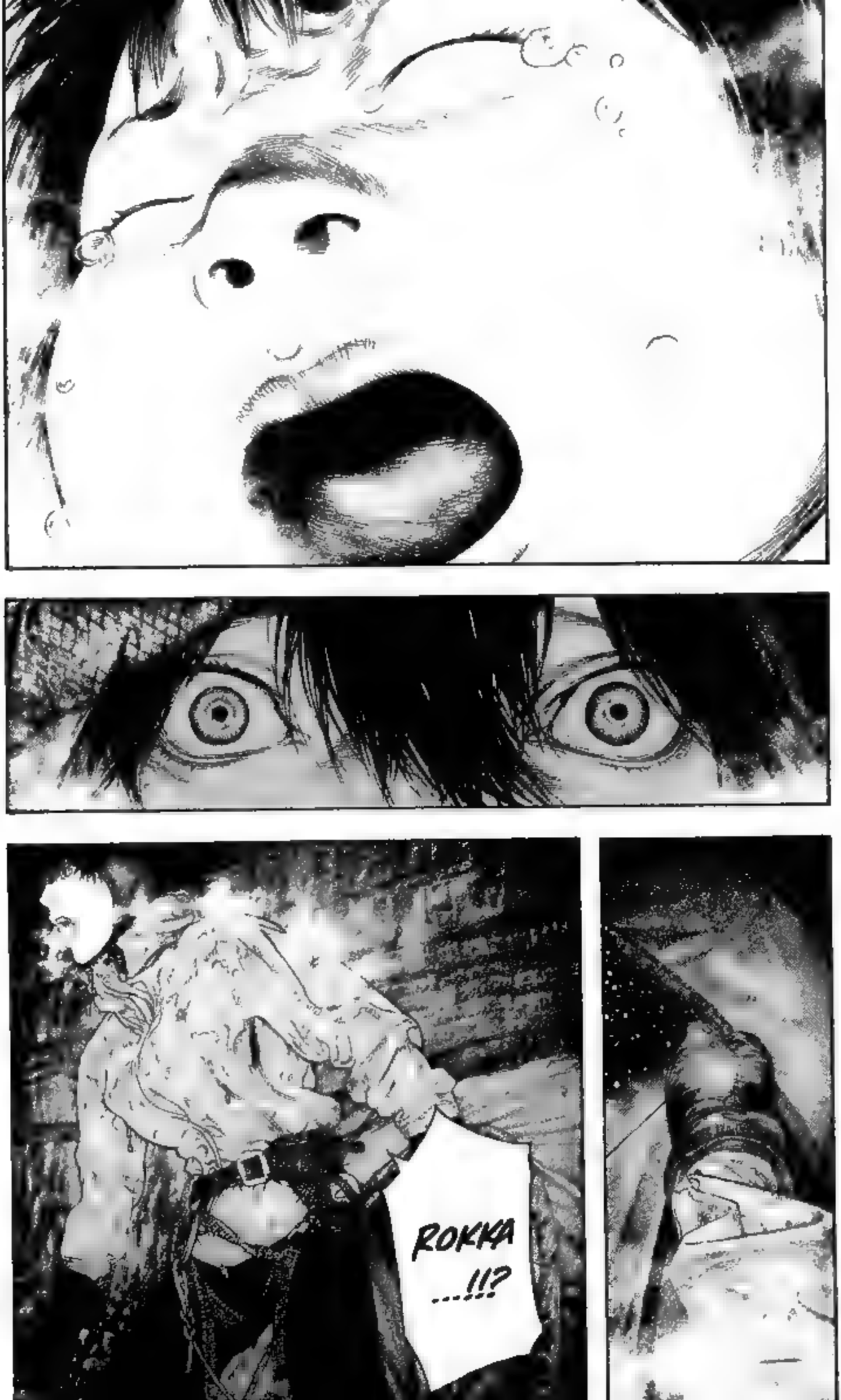



7/22
8:00 PM
K2 East Face Great Ice Field
7600M Bivouac Site (2)
Air Temperature -22°C

GETTING TO THE TOP'S ABSO-LUTELY IMPOS-S.BLE.
IF YOU DON'T HEAD DOWN SOON, YOU'LL END UP LIKE ME.


I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE IT TO THE SUMMIT...
THE FINAL ATTACK STARTS AT 1 AM...
TUE 22
8:57
35




ROKKA
...!!?

KOKOU NO HITO

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by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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#159 - Conflict

THE WIND...
CHANGED.....!!!

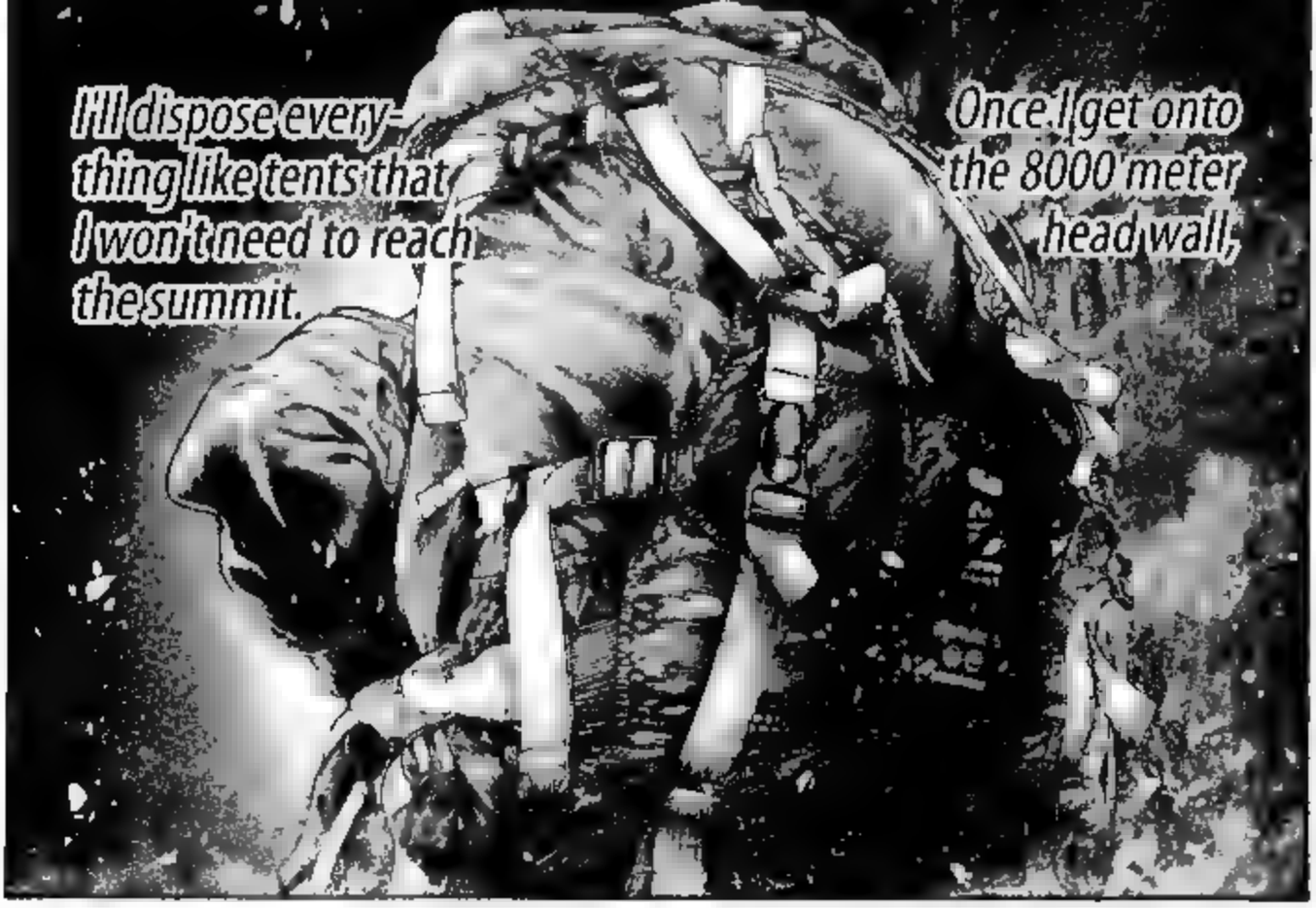
This's proof the atmospheric pressure's gone down
CASIO
7651
10:46
I haven't moved one step from this 7600 meter site, but my altitude gauge shows I've risen 50 meters higher ..

The wind's blowing
from the southwest...

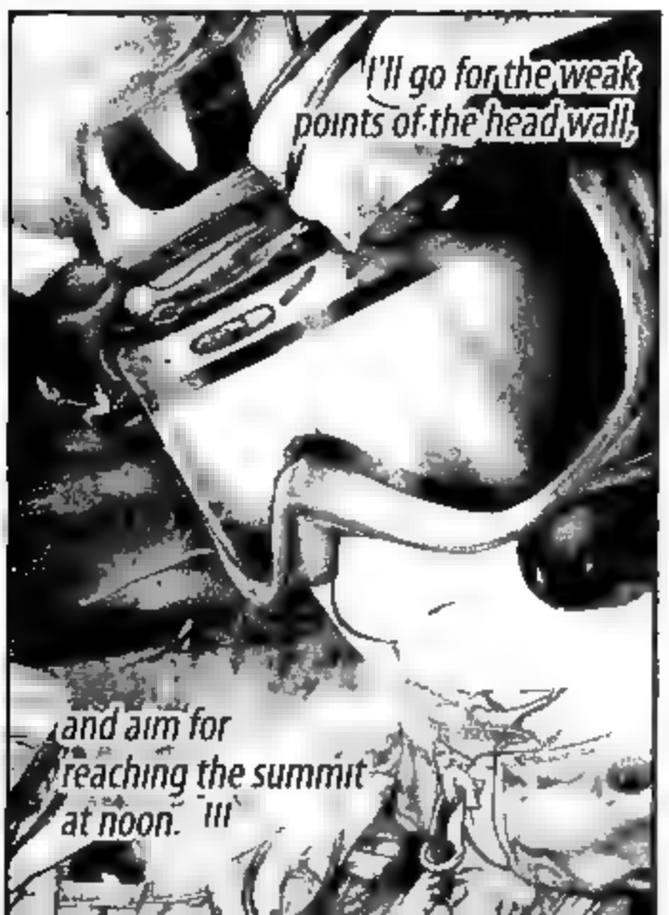
THE WEATHER HERE ON THE K2 EAST-FACE WILL EVENTUALLY DETERIORATE...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
#159 - Conflict

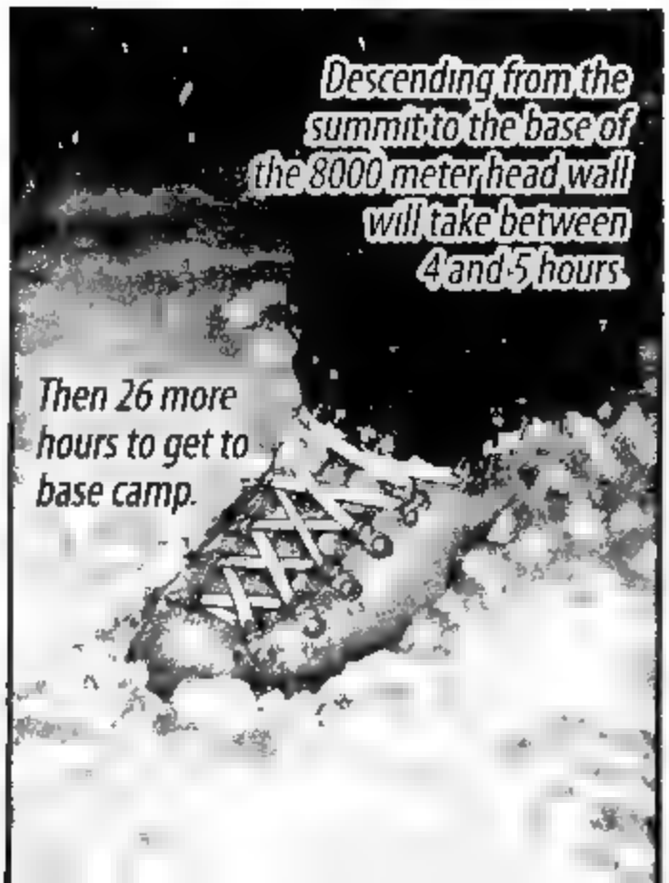
...In a rage of plans.

I'll leave one hour earlier, at midnight
10:50
I planned to depart at 1AM, but

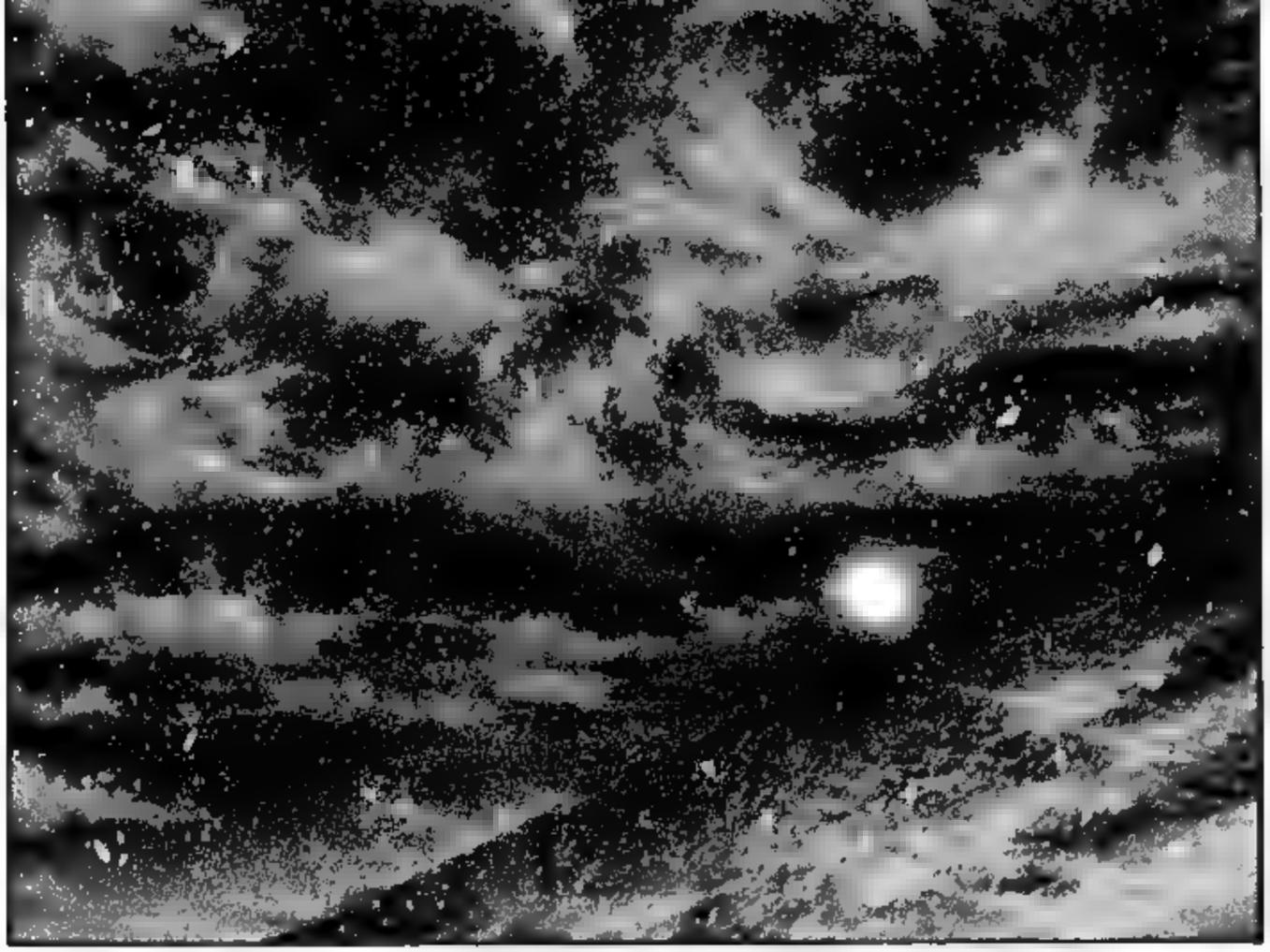

I'll dispose every-thing like tents that I won't need to reach the summit.
Once I get onto the 8000 meter head wall,

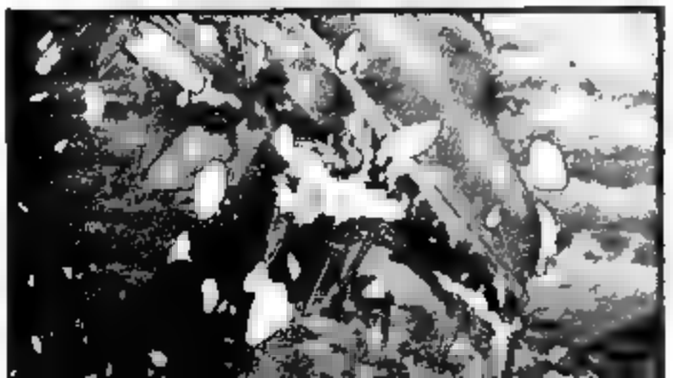
I have the whole thing drilled into my head
I've seen the terrain of the head wall from below from photos


I'll go for the weak points of the head wall,
and aim for reaching the summit at noon. !!!

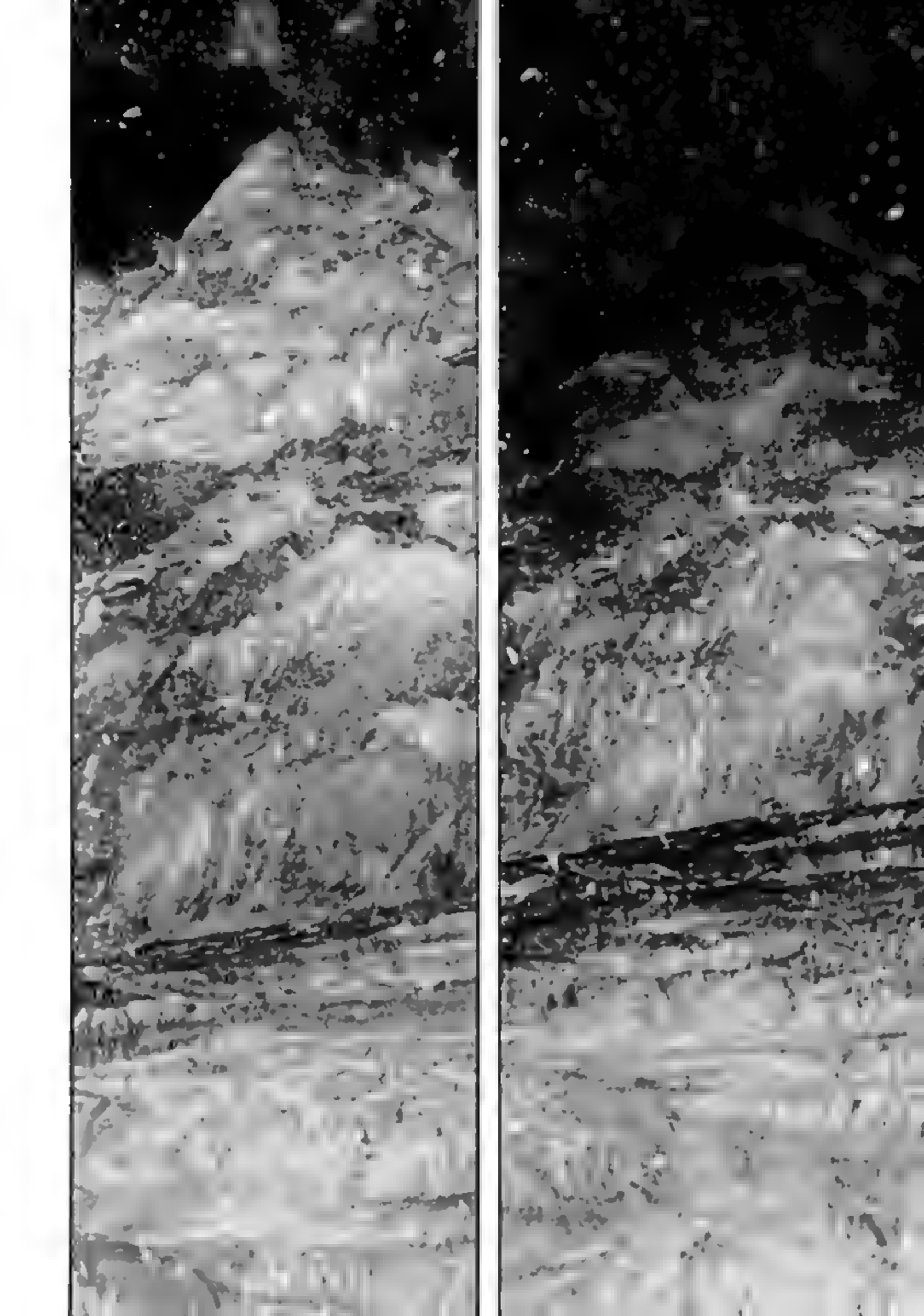

Descending from the summit to the base of the 8000 meter head wall will take between 4 and 5 hours.
Then 26 more hours to get to base camp.

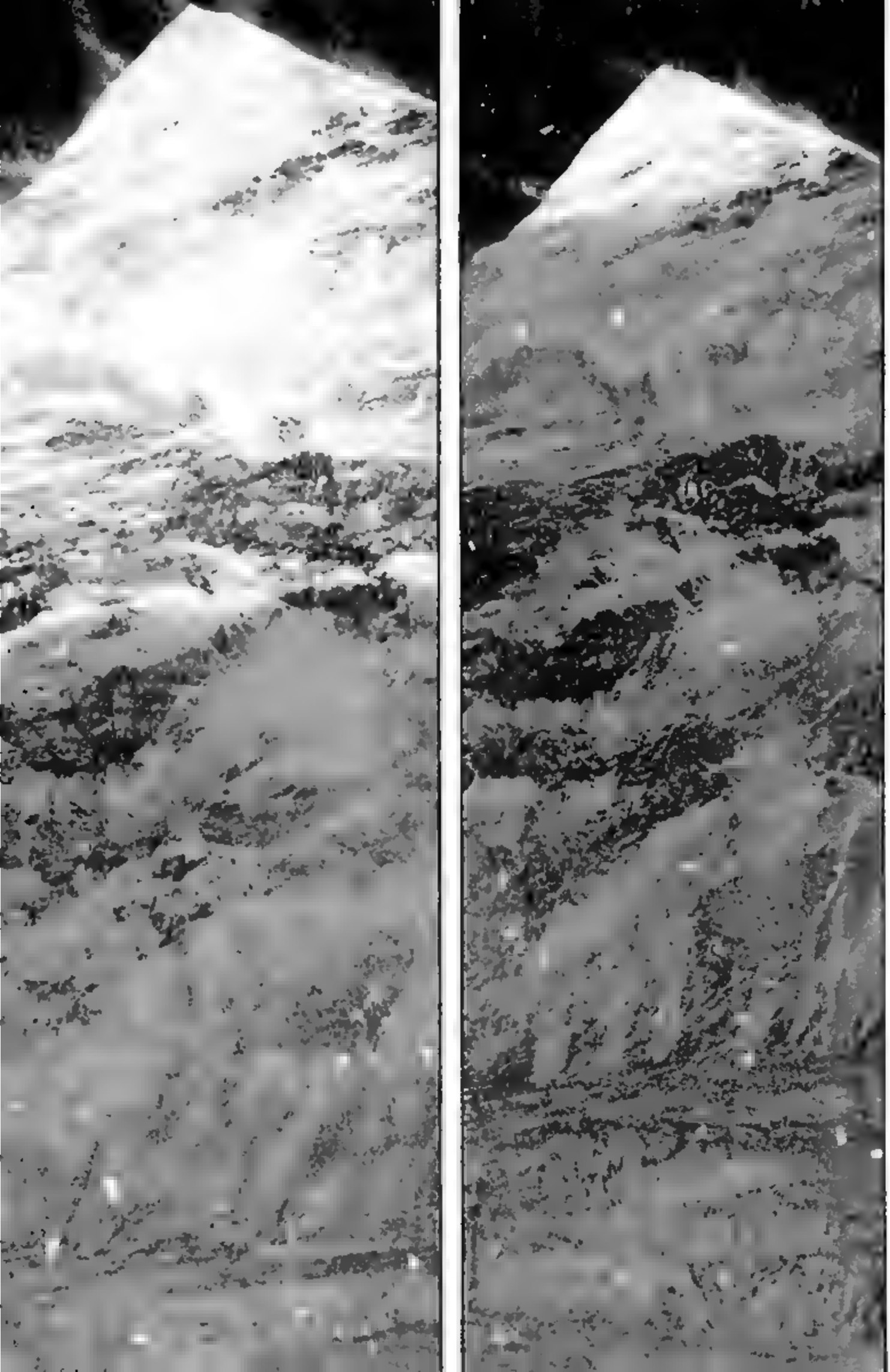
IF I DO WELL, I'LL JUST BARELY MAKE IT.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK OF UNNECESSARY THINGS NOW.

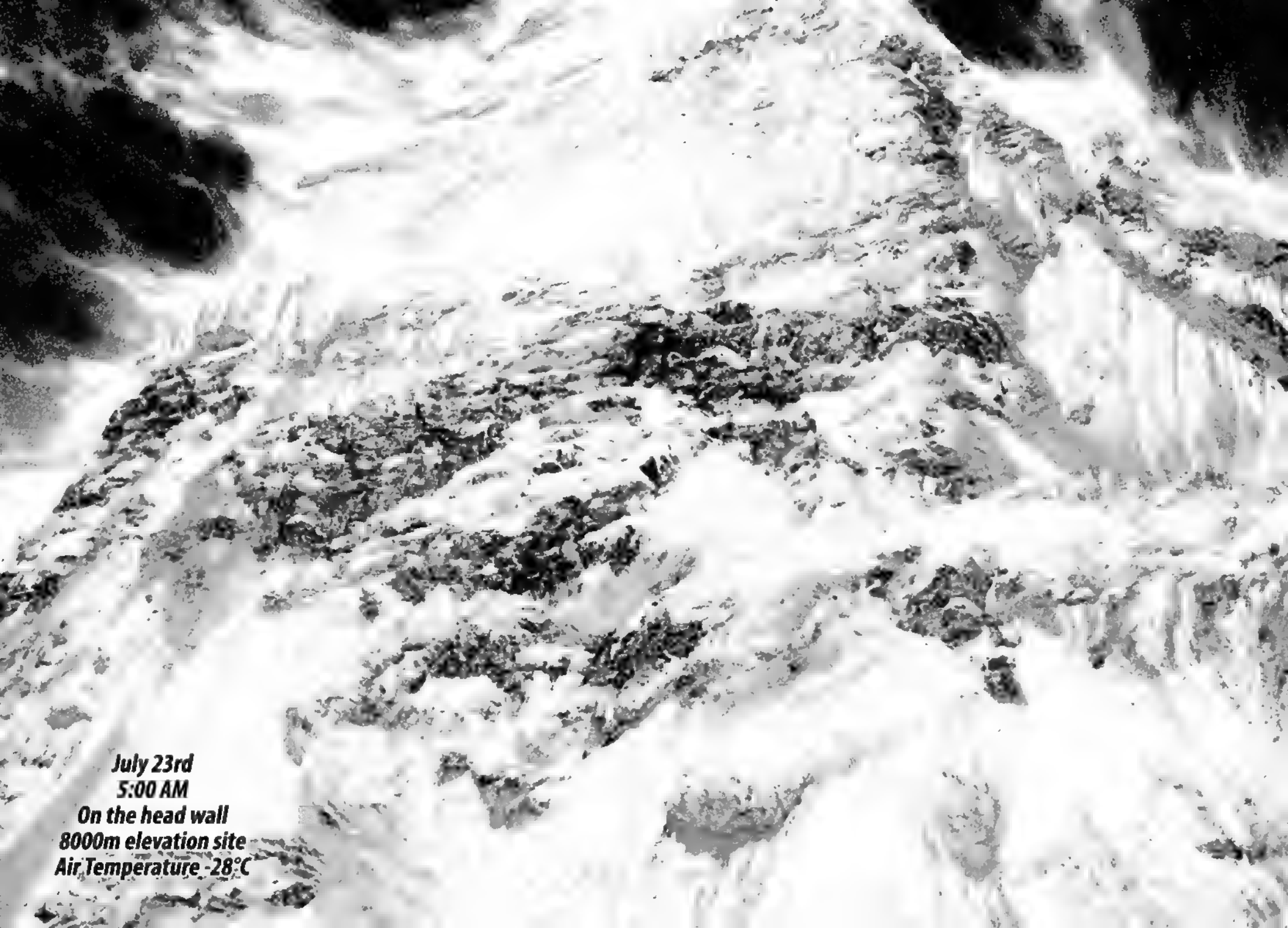




山ヶ谷3






July 23rd
5:00 AM
On the head wall
8000m elevation site
Air Temperature -28°C

KOKOU NO HITO

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by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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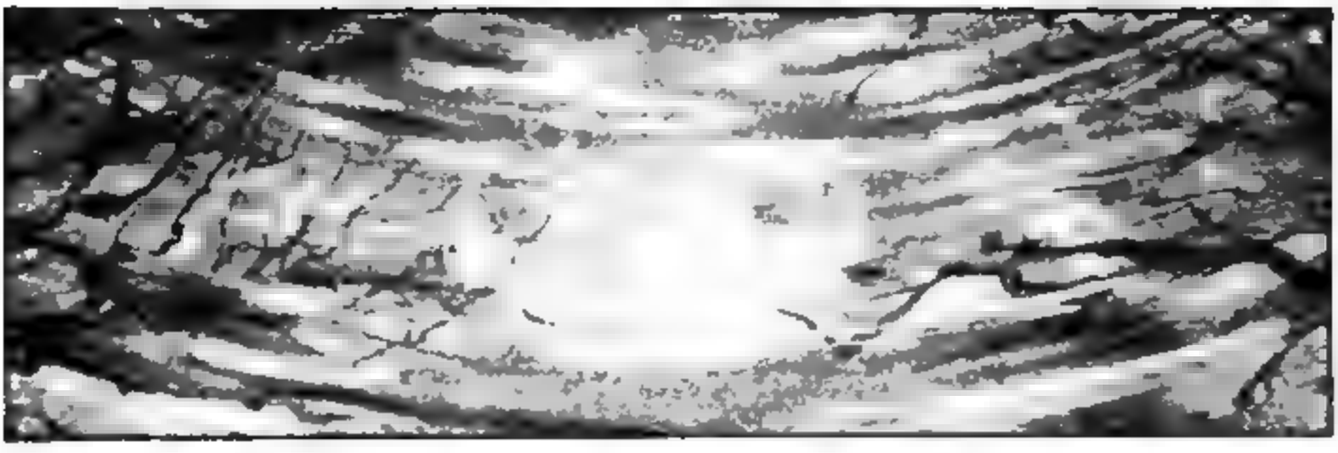
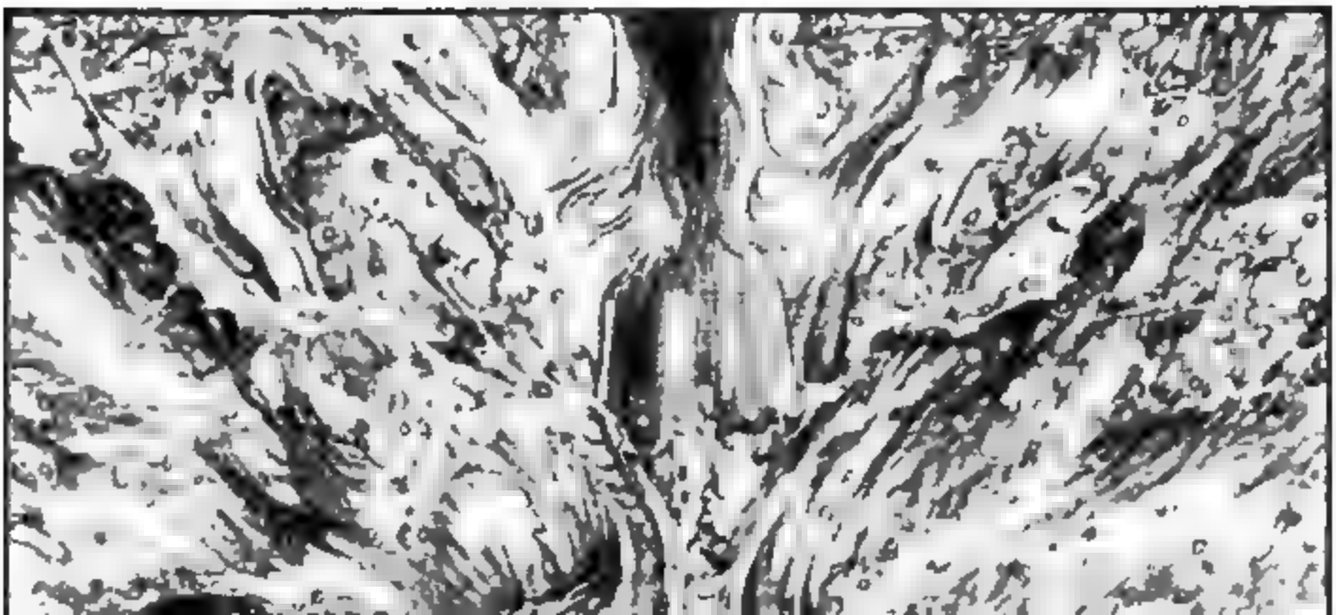
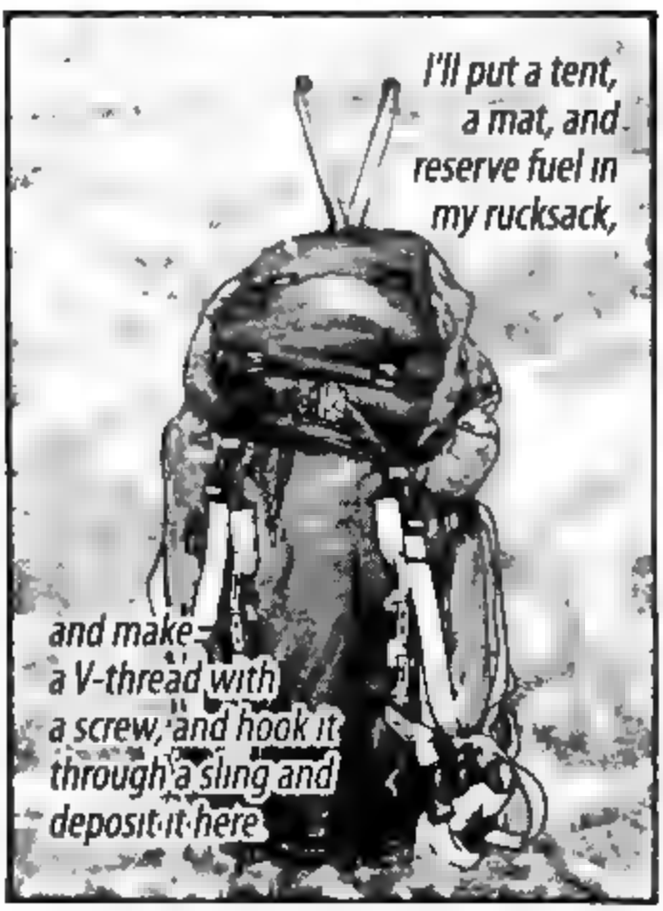


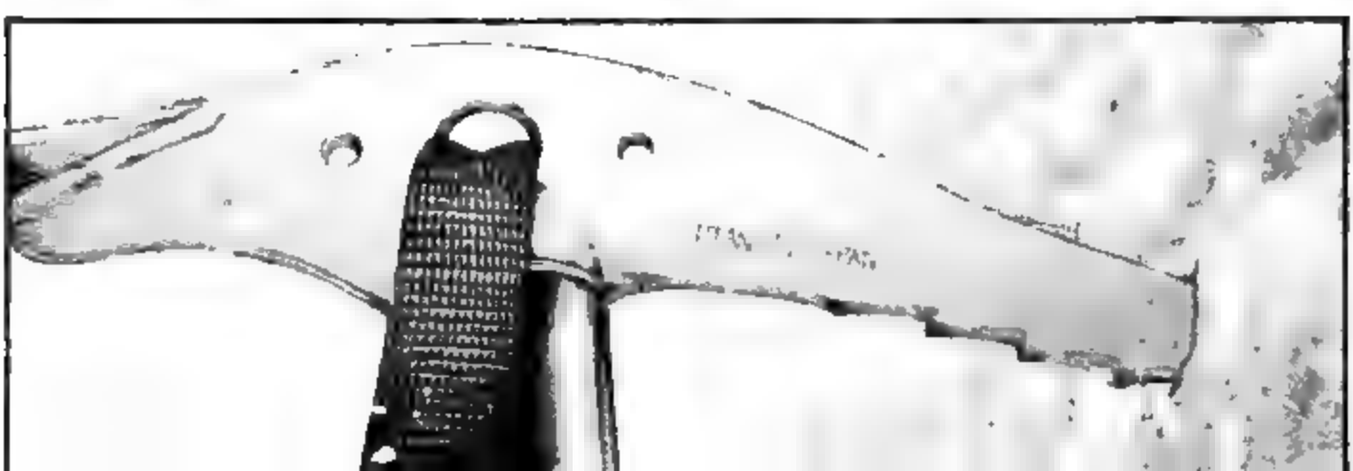


TL NOTE: THE JAPANESE TITLE OF THIS DUTCH POEM IS "MAOU" MEANING "DEMON KING" WHICH DERIVES FROM THE INCORRECT ENGLISH TRANSLATION "ELF KING" THOUGH THE CORRECT TRANSLATION OF THE TITLE ERLKONIG IS THOUGHT TO BE "ALDER KING" WHICH IS A TYPE OF FLOWERING SHRUB. YOU SHOULD READ THE POEM IF YOU WANT THIS CHAPTER TO MAKE SENSE. SCHUBERT IS A SINGER WHO SANG THE LYRICS.

I have with me now, a bivouac sack, a thermos, a jet boiler, 5 5mm rope,
and a small supply of food.


I'll put a tent, a mat, and reserve fuel in my rucksack,
and make a V-thread with a screw, and hook it through a sling and deposit it here

Starting here I'm only bringing essential climbing gear
I'll switch to a light-weight day pack

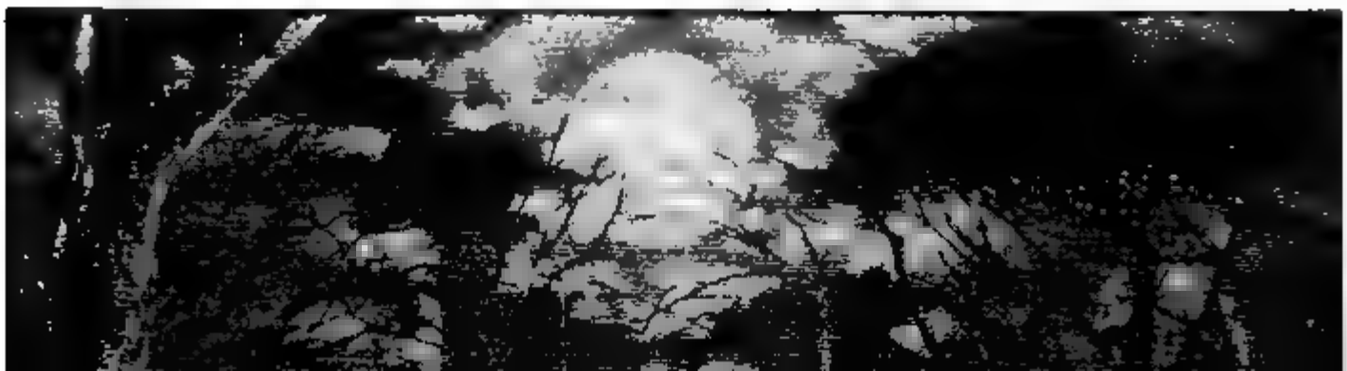


A hanging glacier. An ice wall starting from 70 to 80 degrees.
I'll go free with double axes. I don't have the spare time for security.

I can gain balance.
By the degree I can hook my ice axes,
I'm relatively sure about my footing.
Keep my breathing steady.
Climb by relying on the "feet".

I'll just have to trust the map in my head.
As I expected, I guess I can't see all the way to the top...

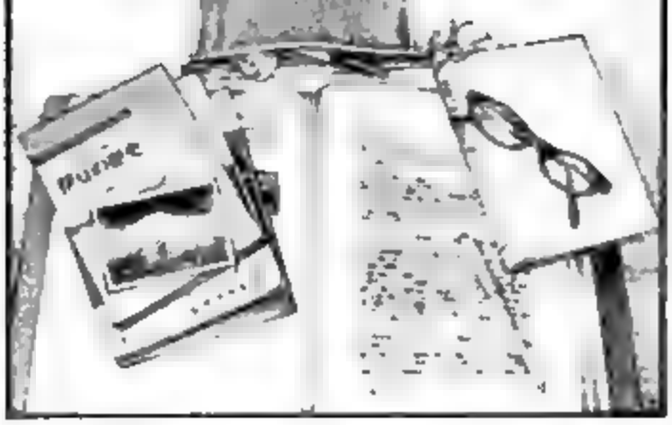
Here it comes again.
As I should expect from the wind on an isolated peak, I'm stuck...!!!!

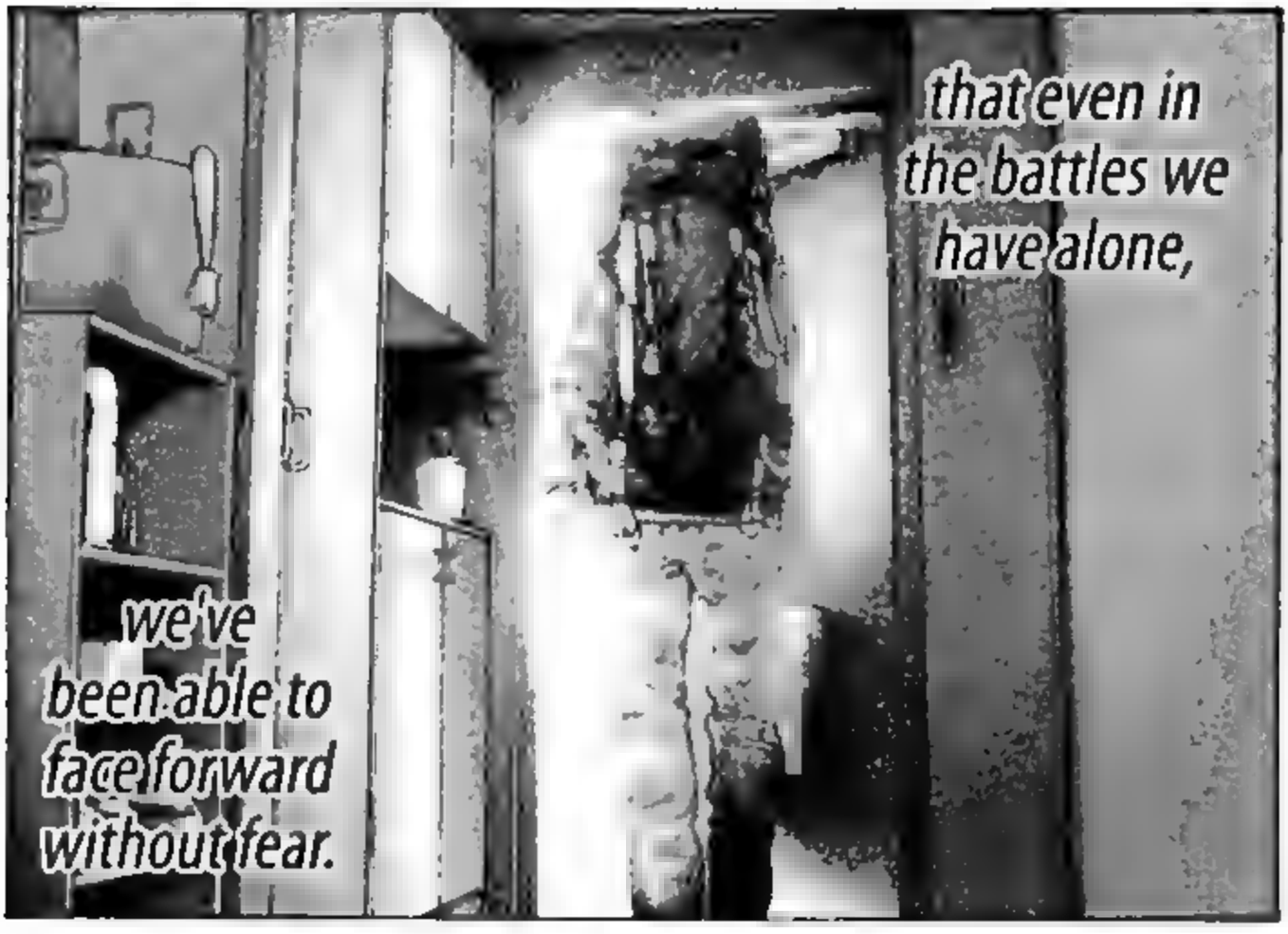


NO MATTER HOW LIMITING THE SITUATION MAY BE,
I'LL DEFINITELY GET HOME ALIVE!!!

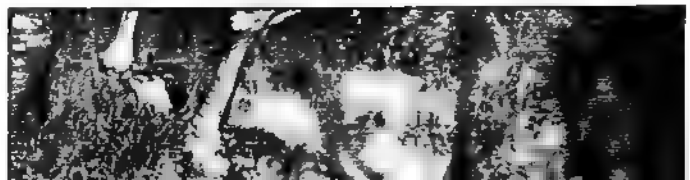
Patagonia
Annapurna
Dhaulagiri
Nanga Parbat...
Himalayan Peak 29, Manaslu,
THAT HAS COME CLOSER TO DEATH THAN ANY OTHER.
I'VE BEEN CALLED THE CLIMBER ...

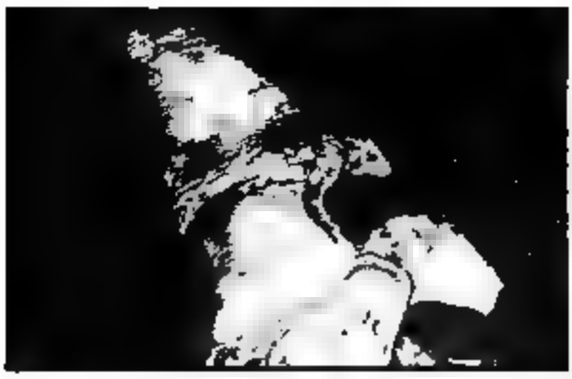
It is because we...
are two different people with our own paths to take


Purse


that even in the battles we have alone,
we've been able to face forward without fear.

Oh, no...!!!



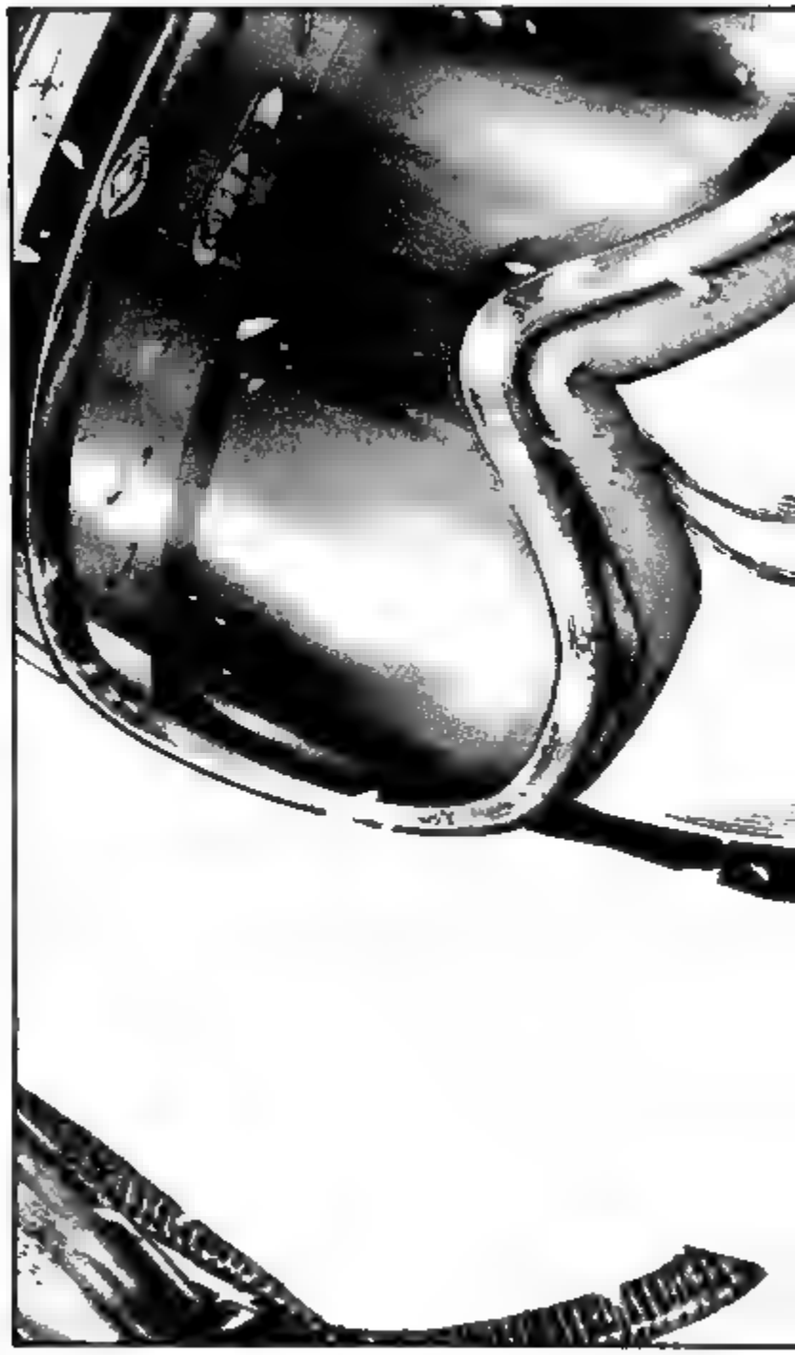


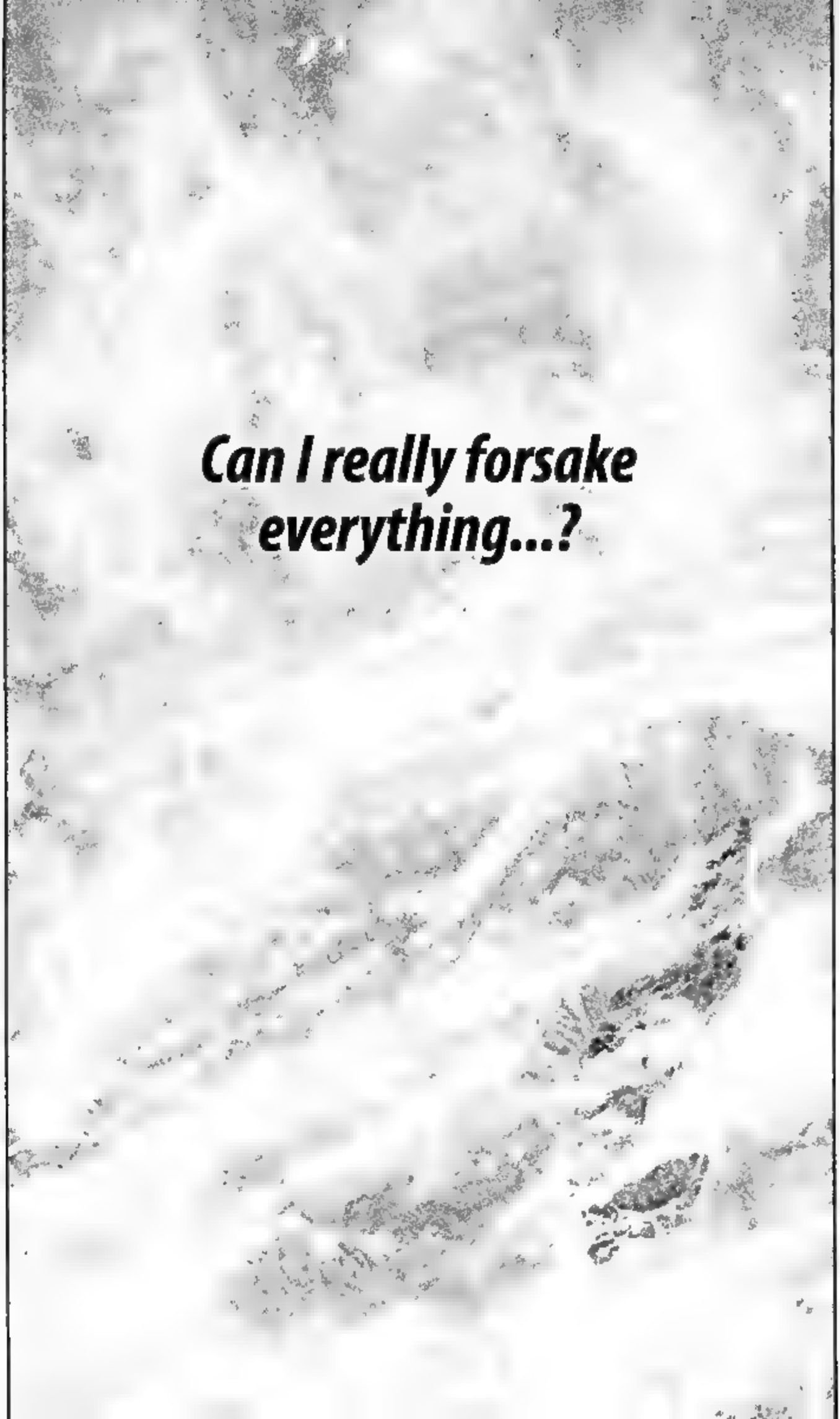
Maybe...

That father
wasn't riding
the horse to
protect his child,

but perhaps
it was because
the thrill of
being chased by
the Alder King...

gave him joy.




Can I really forsake
everything...?

KOKOU NO HITO

by Authors: NABEDA Yoshiro and NITTA Jiro
by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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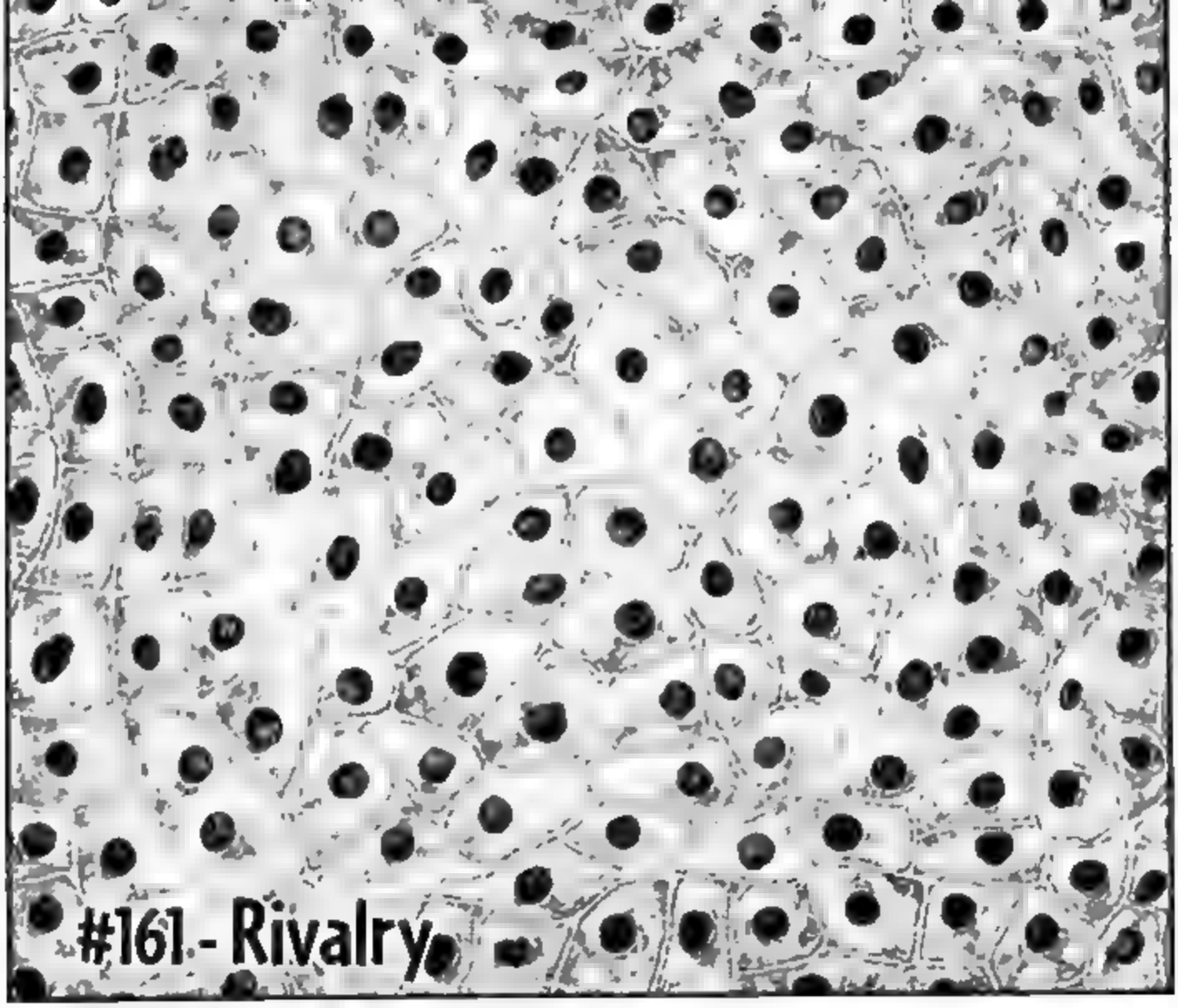
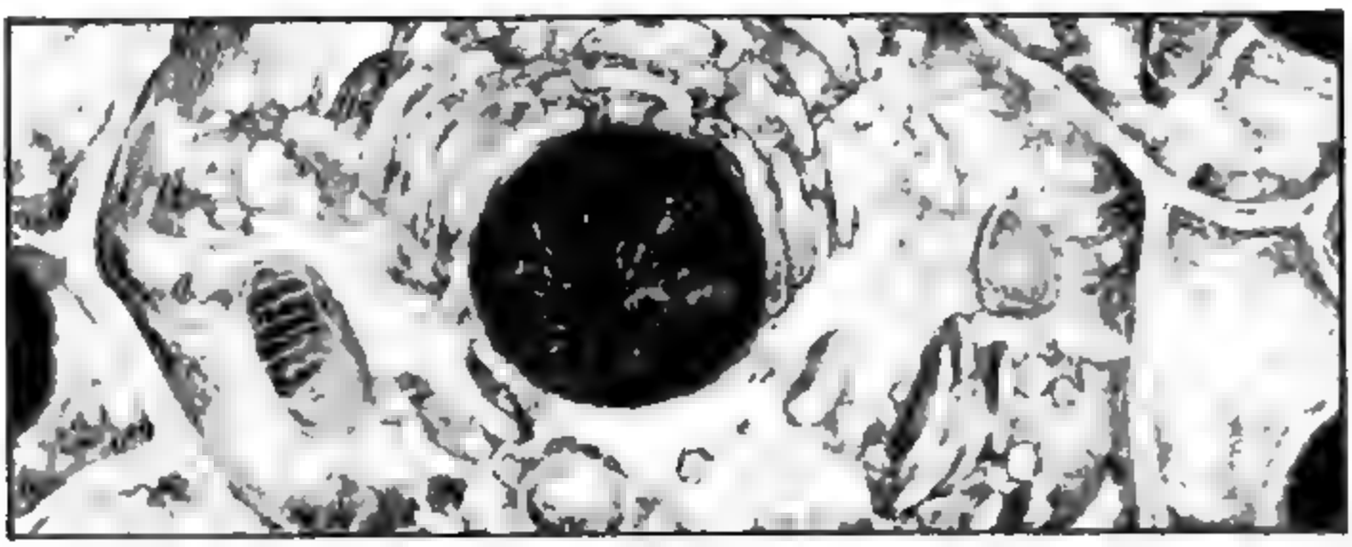
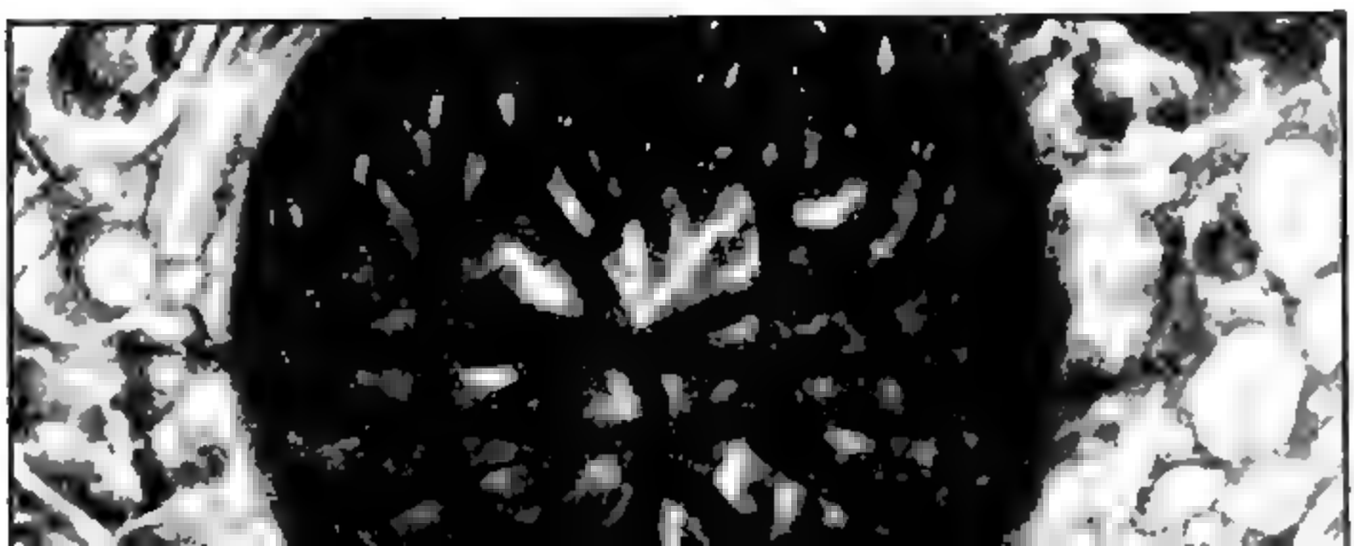
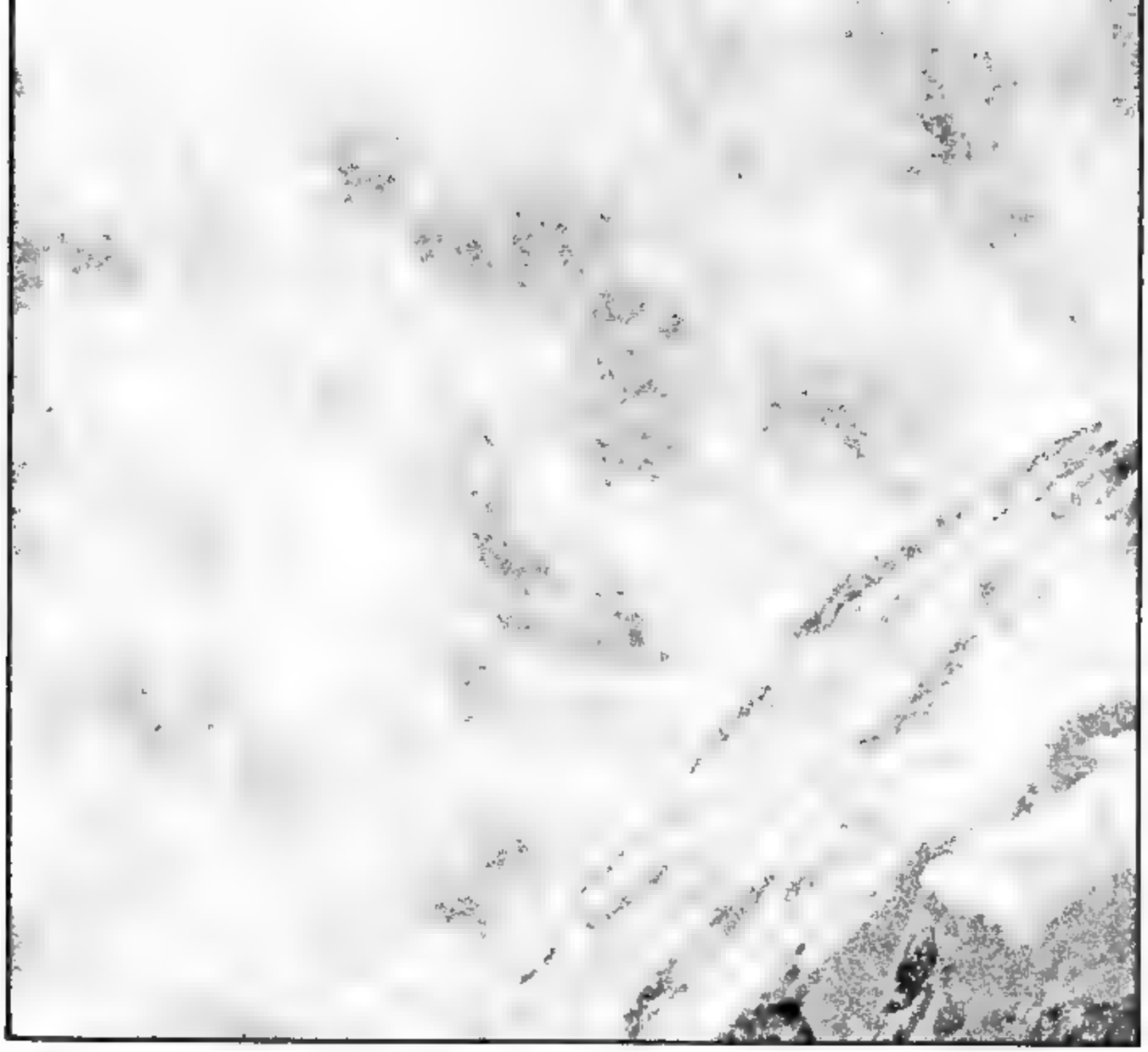
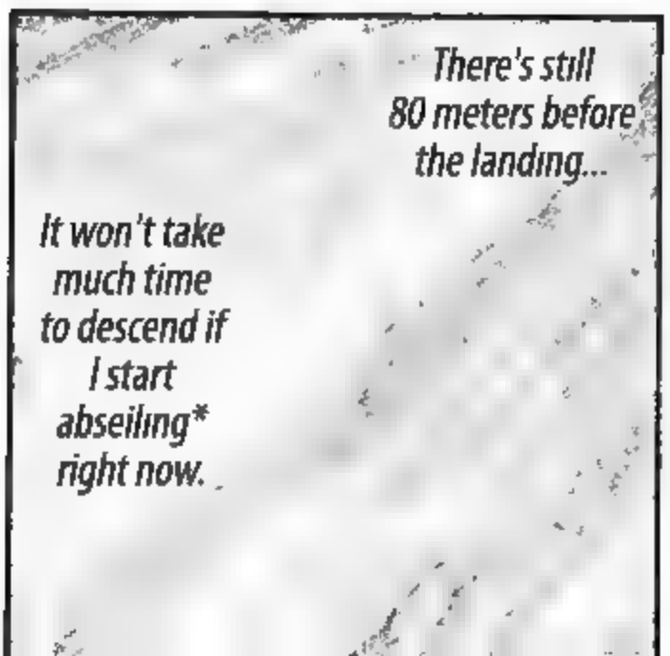

#161 - Rivalry

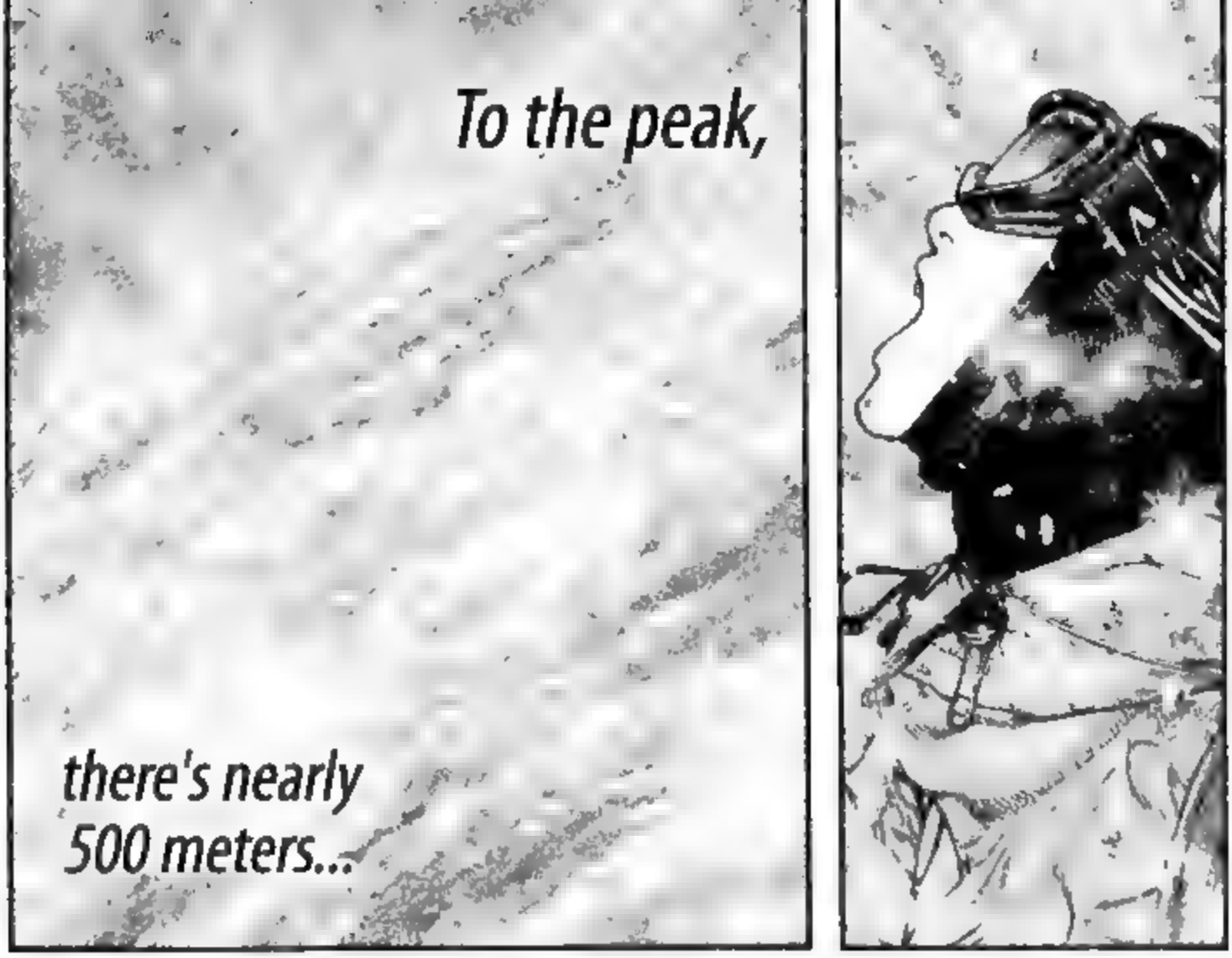


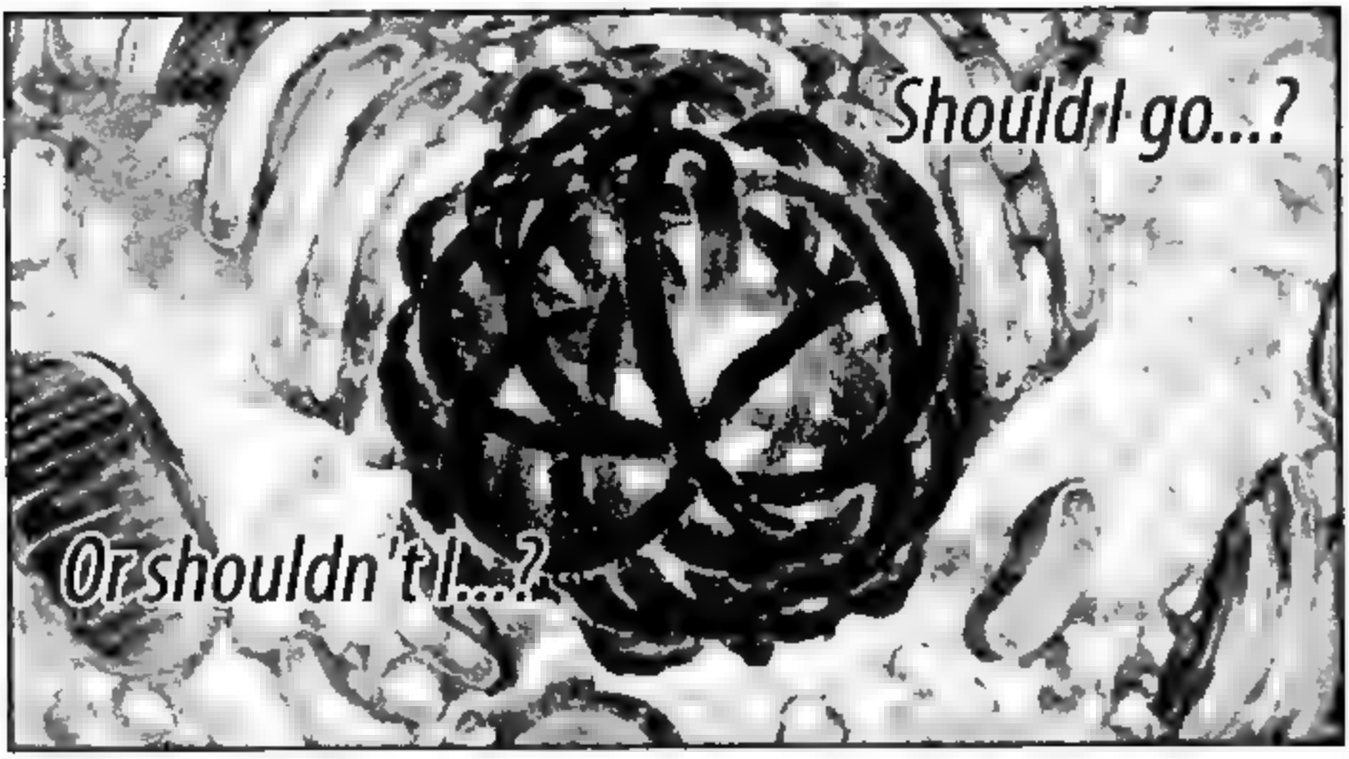




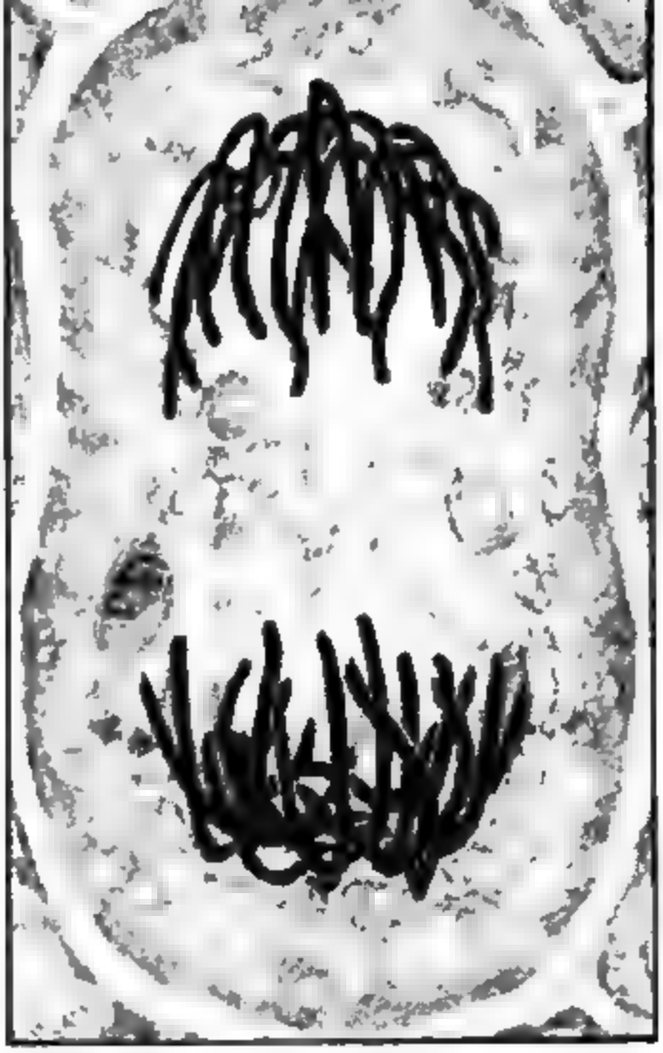


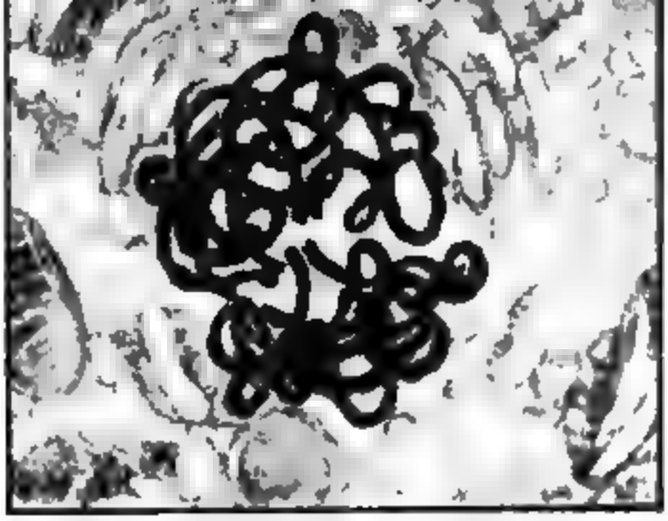
T/N: ABSEILING IS THE CONTROLLED DESCENT DOWN A ROCK FACE USING A ROPE. CLIMBERS USE THIS TECHNIQUE WHEN A CLIFF OR SLOPE IS TOO STEEP AND/OR DANGEROUS TO DESCEND WITHOUT PROTECTION.

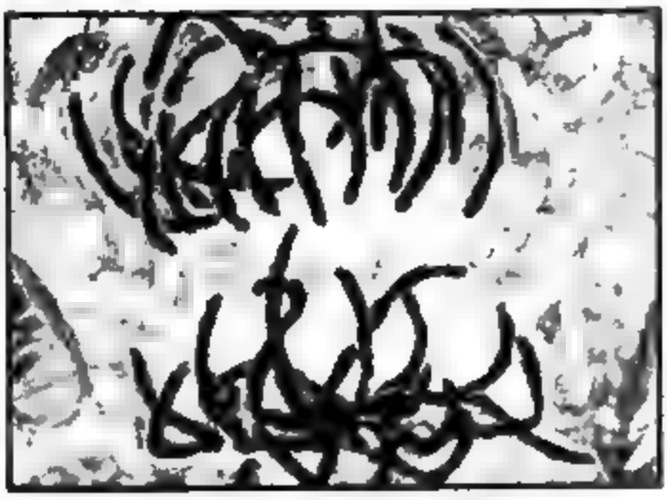

To the peak,
there's nearly
500 meters...

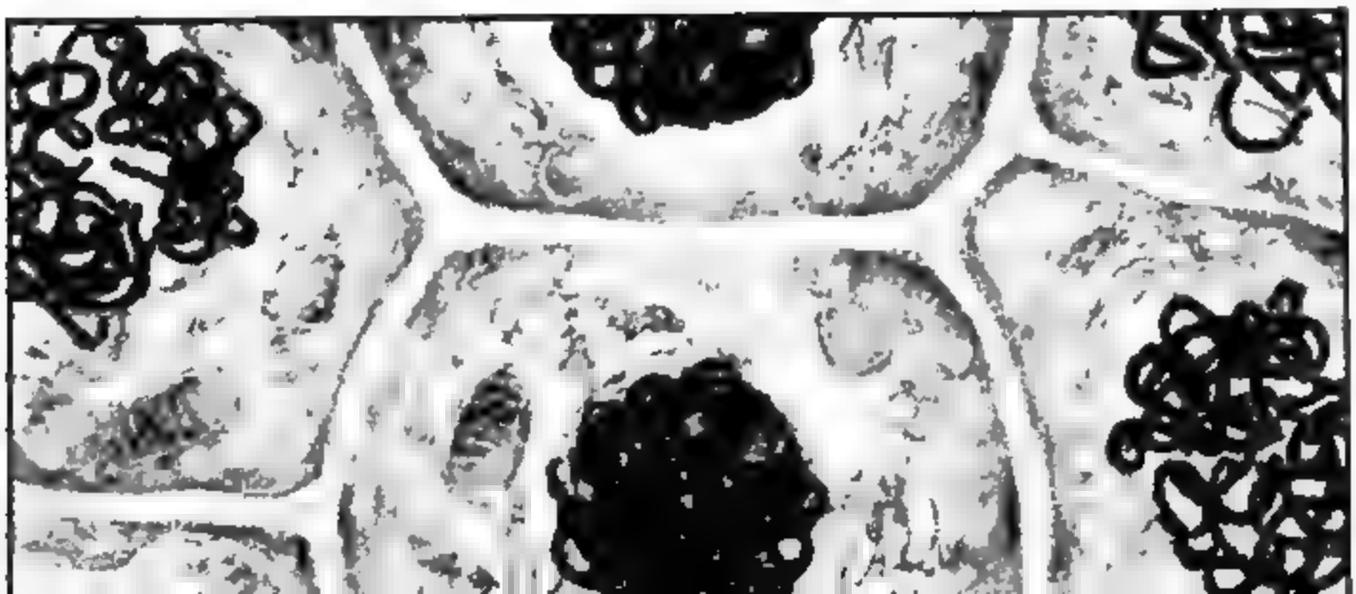

Should I go...?
Or shouldn't I...?

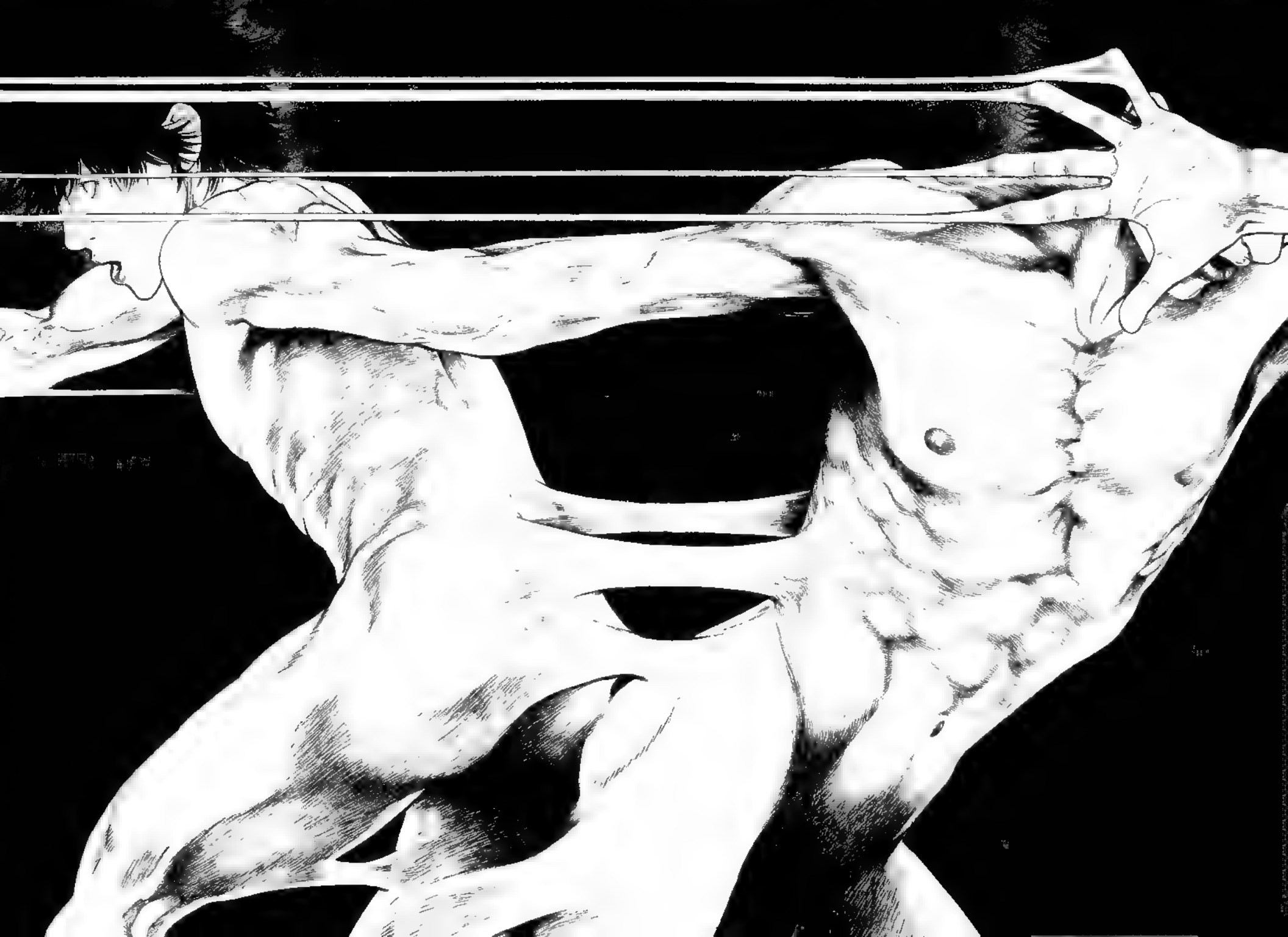
Climb the number 1 mountain in the world.
Go...
Don't go...
Don't go.
Go.









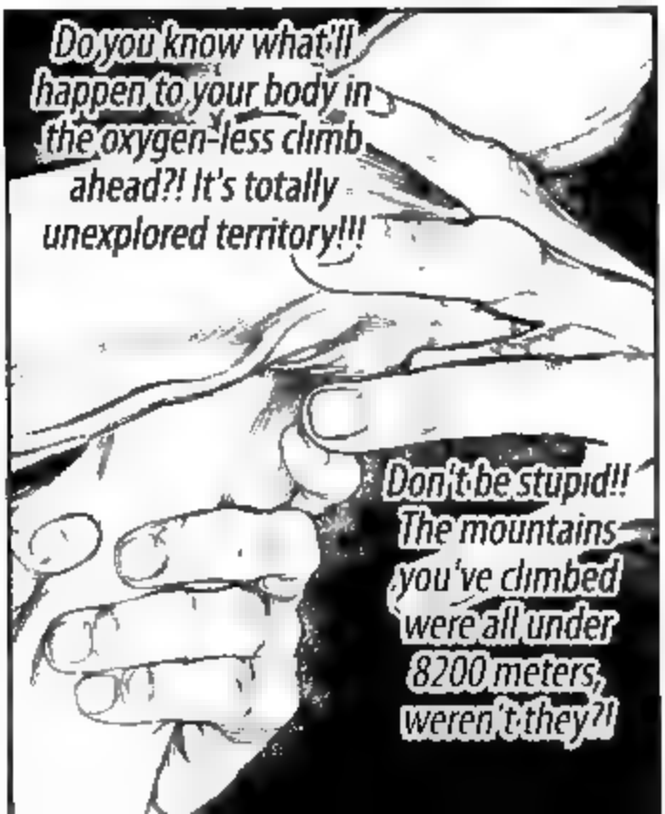


It's impossible!
I can make it!
It'll be okay.
I'm still lucid I can summit it before the weather deteriorates!!
No! It's no good!
It'll turn into a storm in 10 hours at the least, and if I'm caught in it I'll be stuck in the storm for days. And at this altitude trying to ride it out bivouacking is impossible!!

What happens if I get caught up in the storm then?!
And for the core of the high-difficulty rock-and-ice mixed wall up ahead, it can't be climbed without a rope!

I know I can do it!! I've assaulted 8000 meter peaks countless times all for this day!
I'll just climb it free!!
Even in that Northern Alps all-mountain traversal, in the end after all my stamina was used up, I even climbed that Shakujyou mixed wall, didn't I?!!

but after living all those years at the Mount Fuji Weather Measurement Station, I should have already conquered that.
It's true that I have the weakness of having a low value of VO²max that's lethal in high locations,

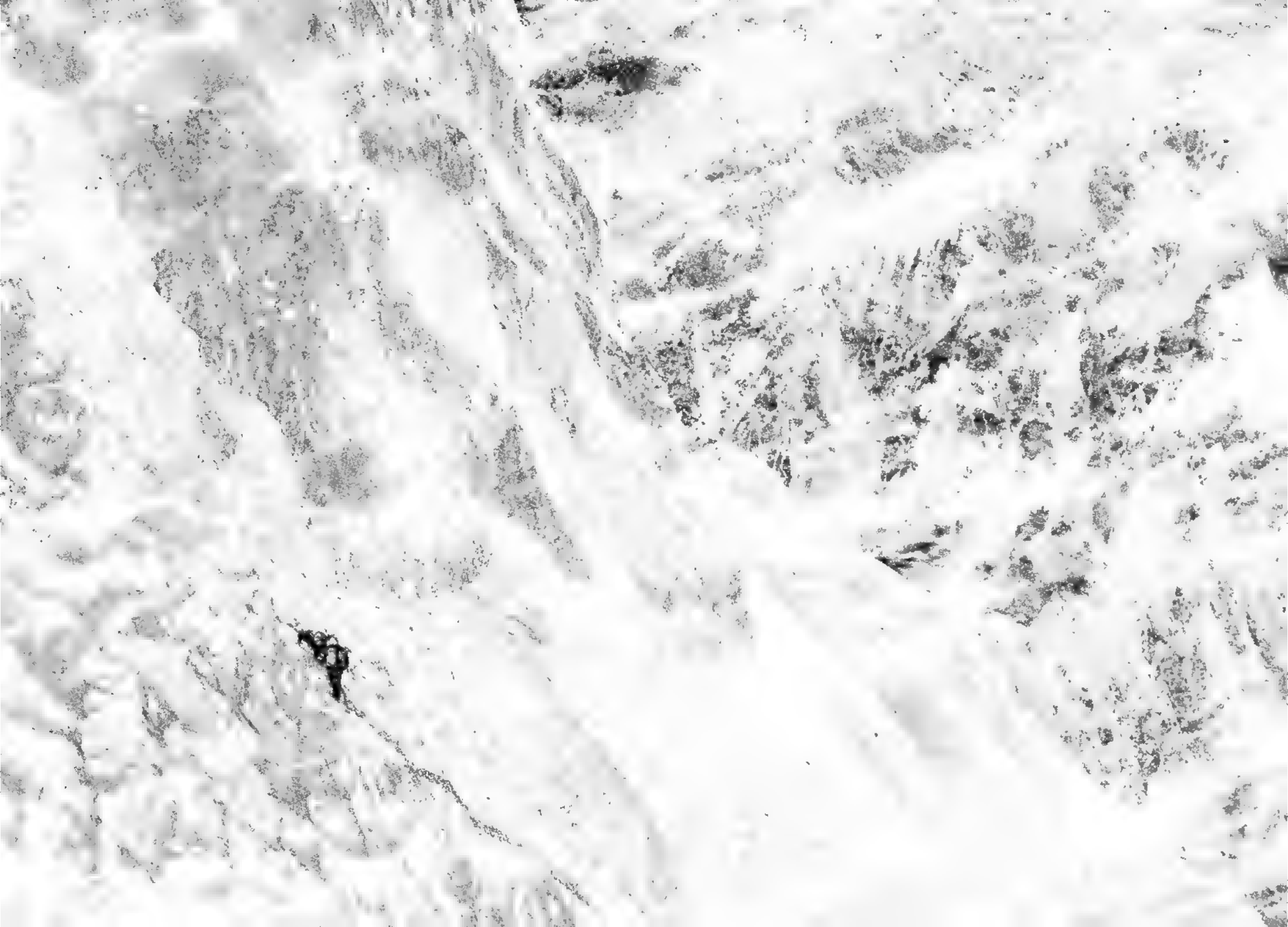

Do you know what'll happen to your body in the oxygen-less climb ahead?! It's totally unexplored territory!!!
Don't be stupid!! The mountains you've climbed were all under 8200 meters, weren't they?!

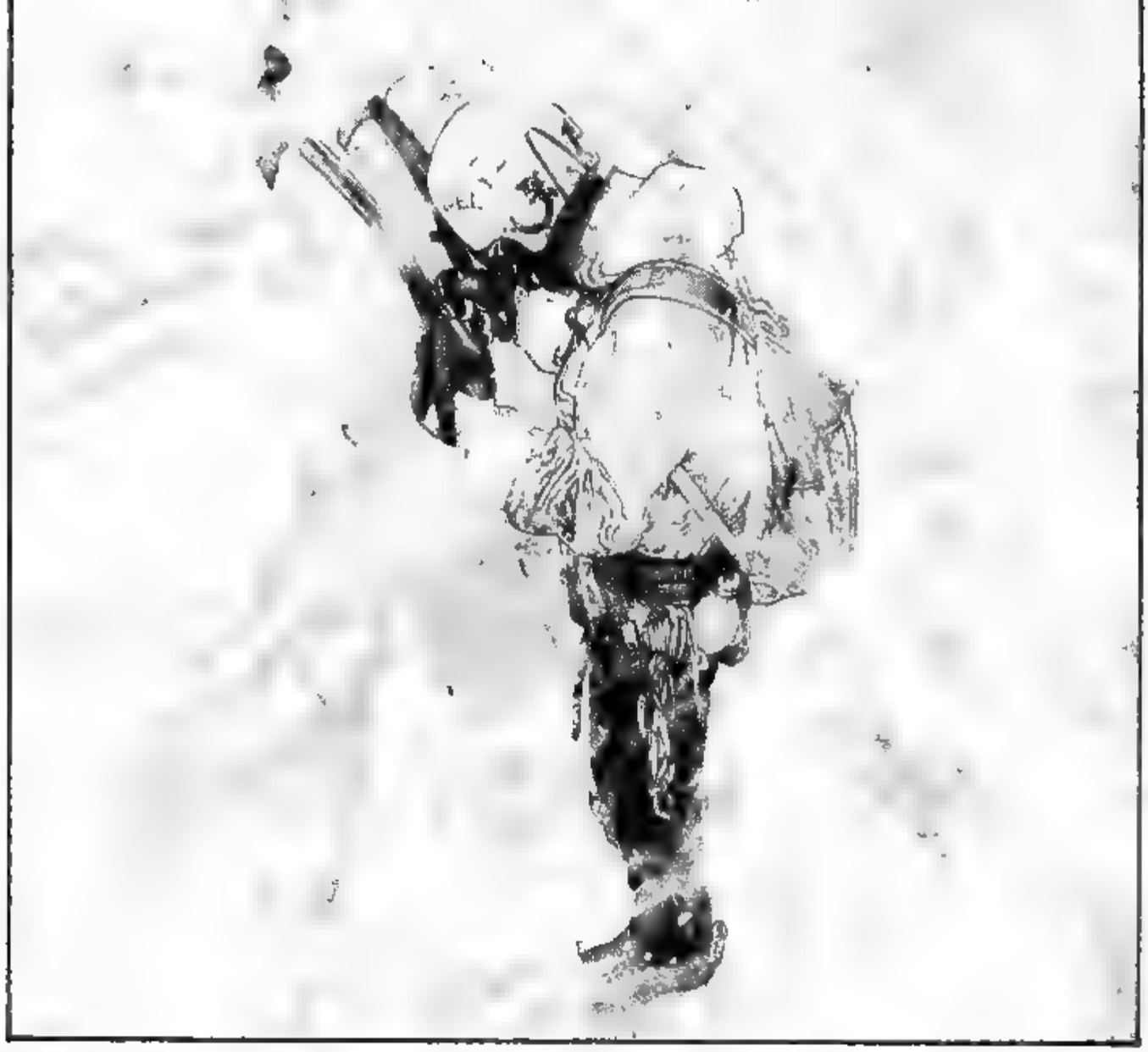
Just 5 more hours!!
In 5 more hours, everything will be pay off!!!!

ALL THE SACRIFICES I'VE PAID UP TILL NOW.
CAN I REALLY HAVE NO REGRETS TO HAVE COME THIS FAR AND GIVE UP WITHOUT TRYING?!

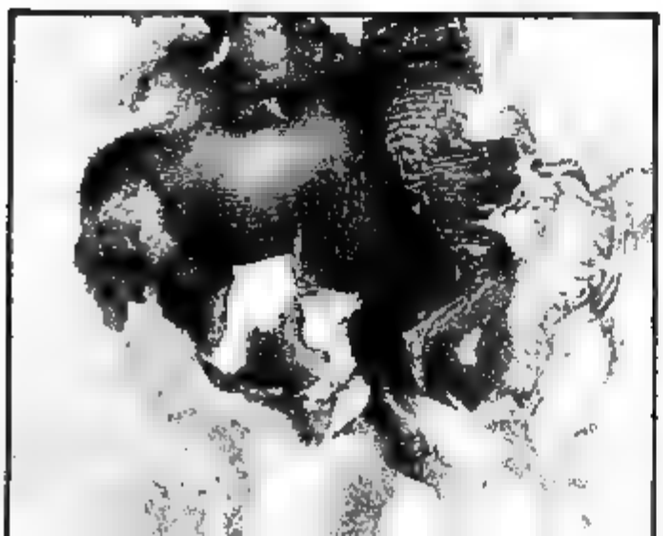
Then what about your family?!
Do you not care if you never see them again?!

If you don't survive, you'll never embrace Rokka again!!!
Now's your last chance to be sure you can get down alive.





VEL



That's far enough...

KOKOU NO HITO

by Authors: NABEDA Yoshiro and NITTA Jiro
by Artist: SAKAMOTO Shinichi

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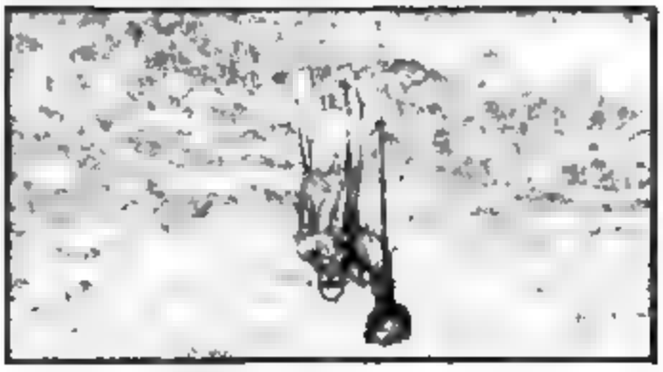
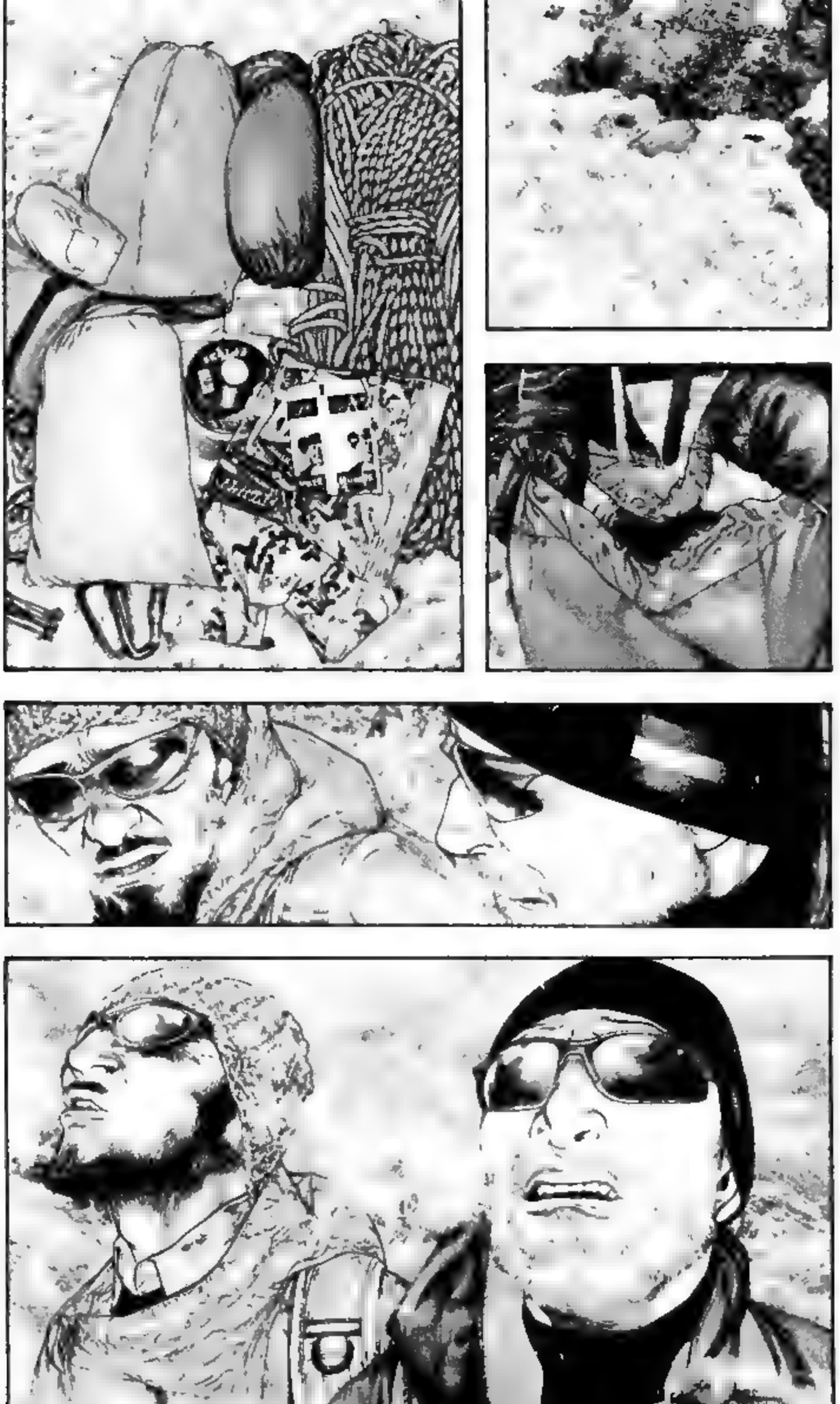
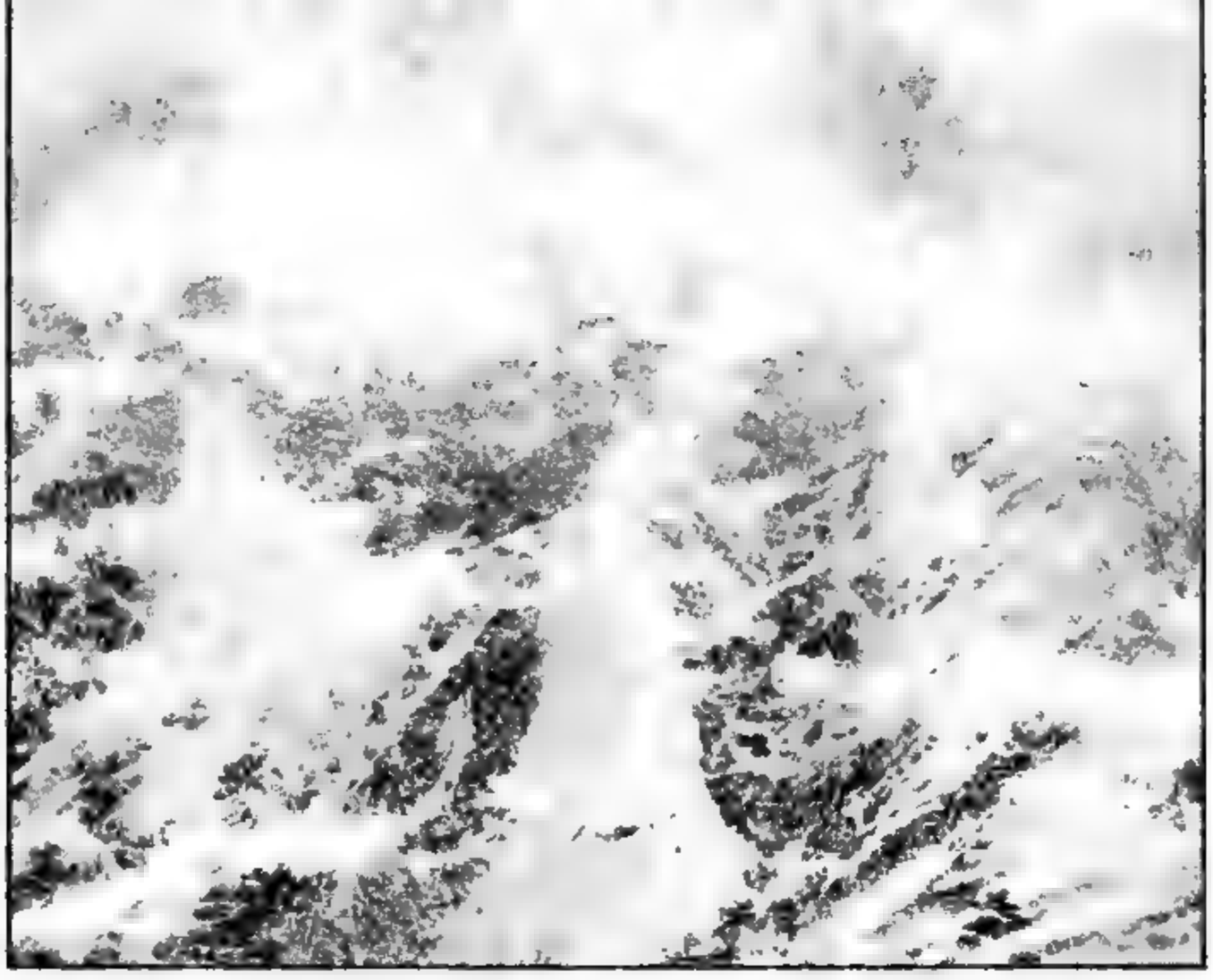
#162 - Information

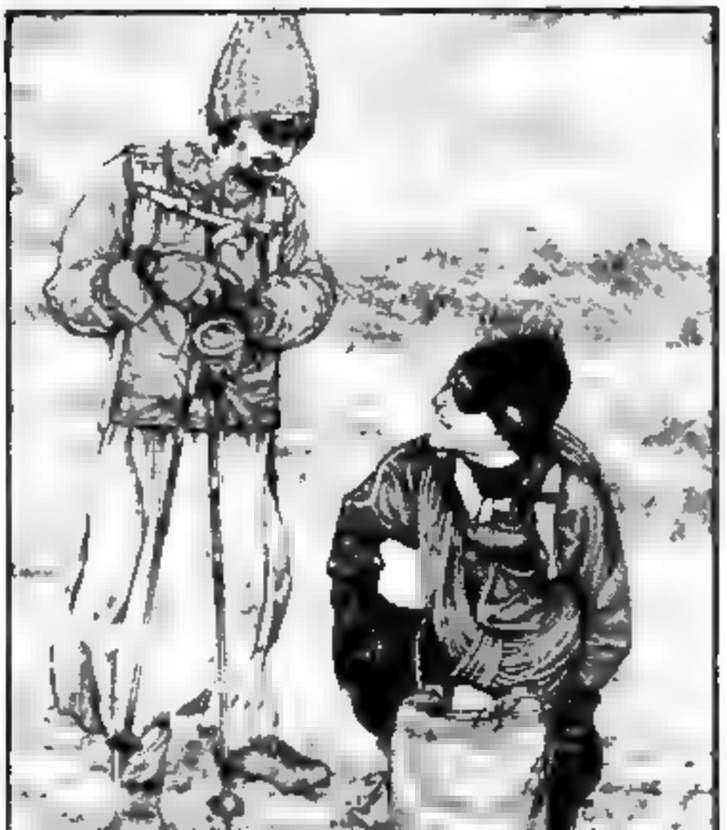
A. TAKEMURA



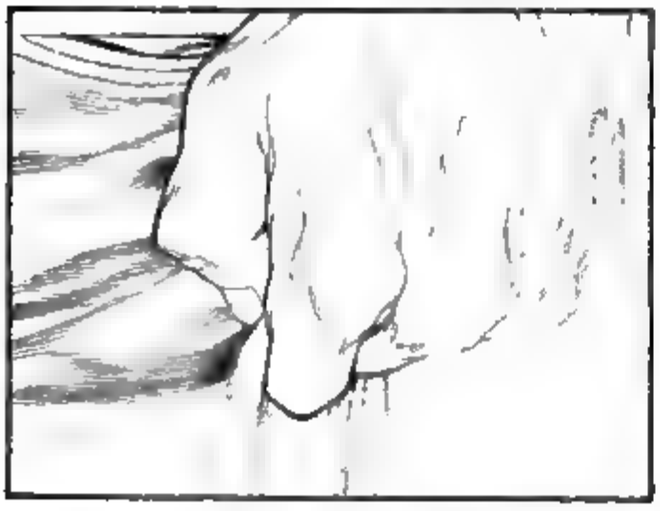


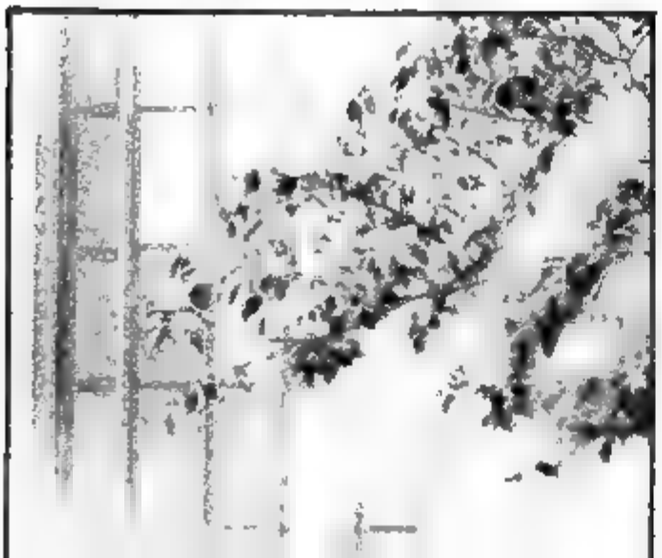


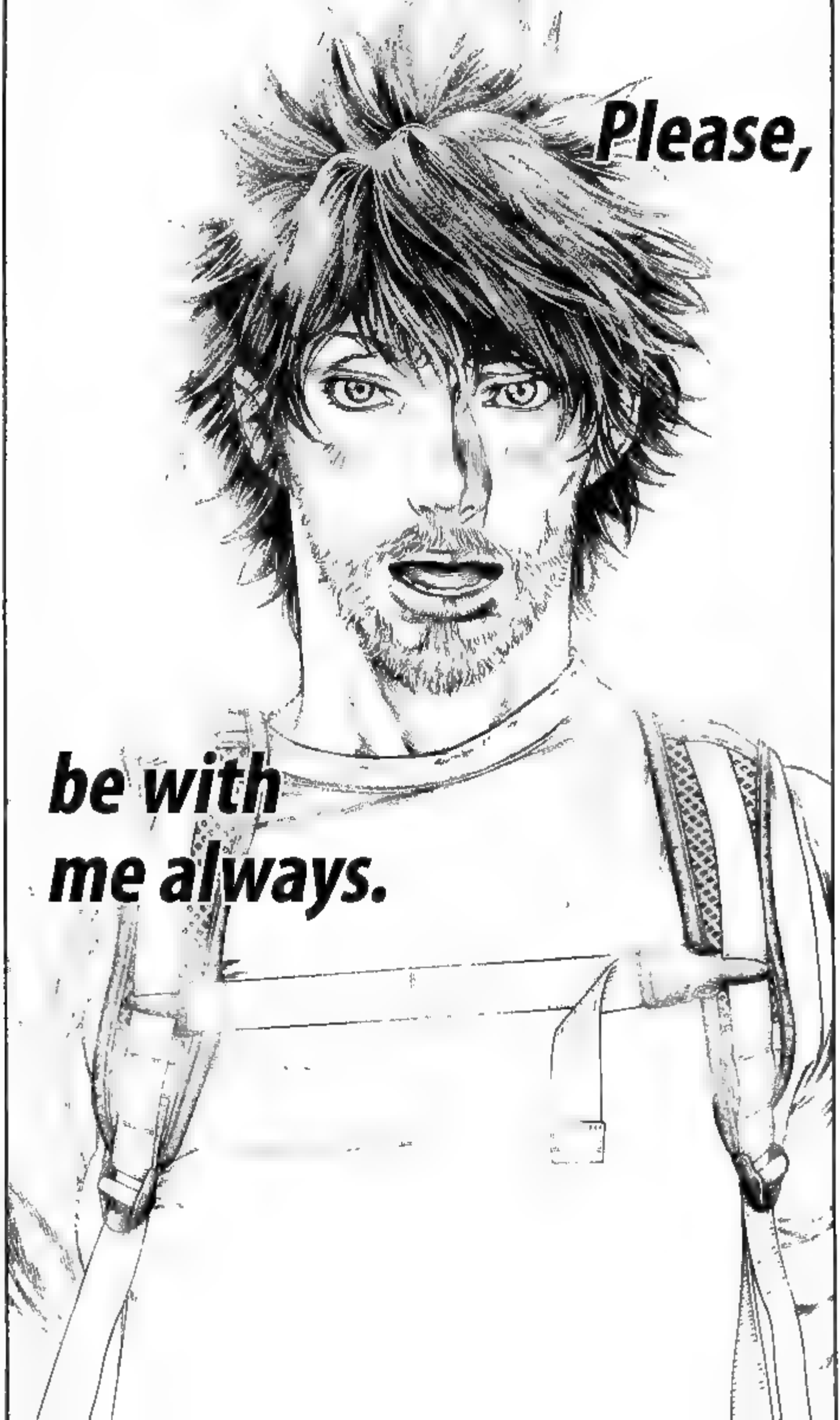
23
12:41
36
LIGHT



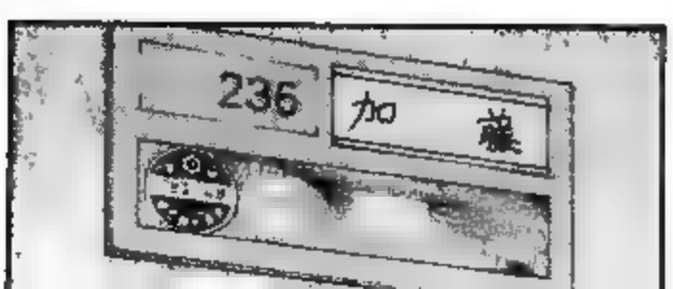
盆踊り
日時 8月2日(木)、3日(金)
PM5:00~






Please,
be with
me always.

OKAY...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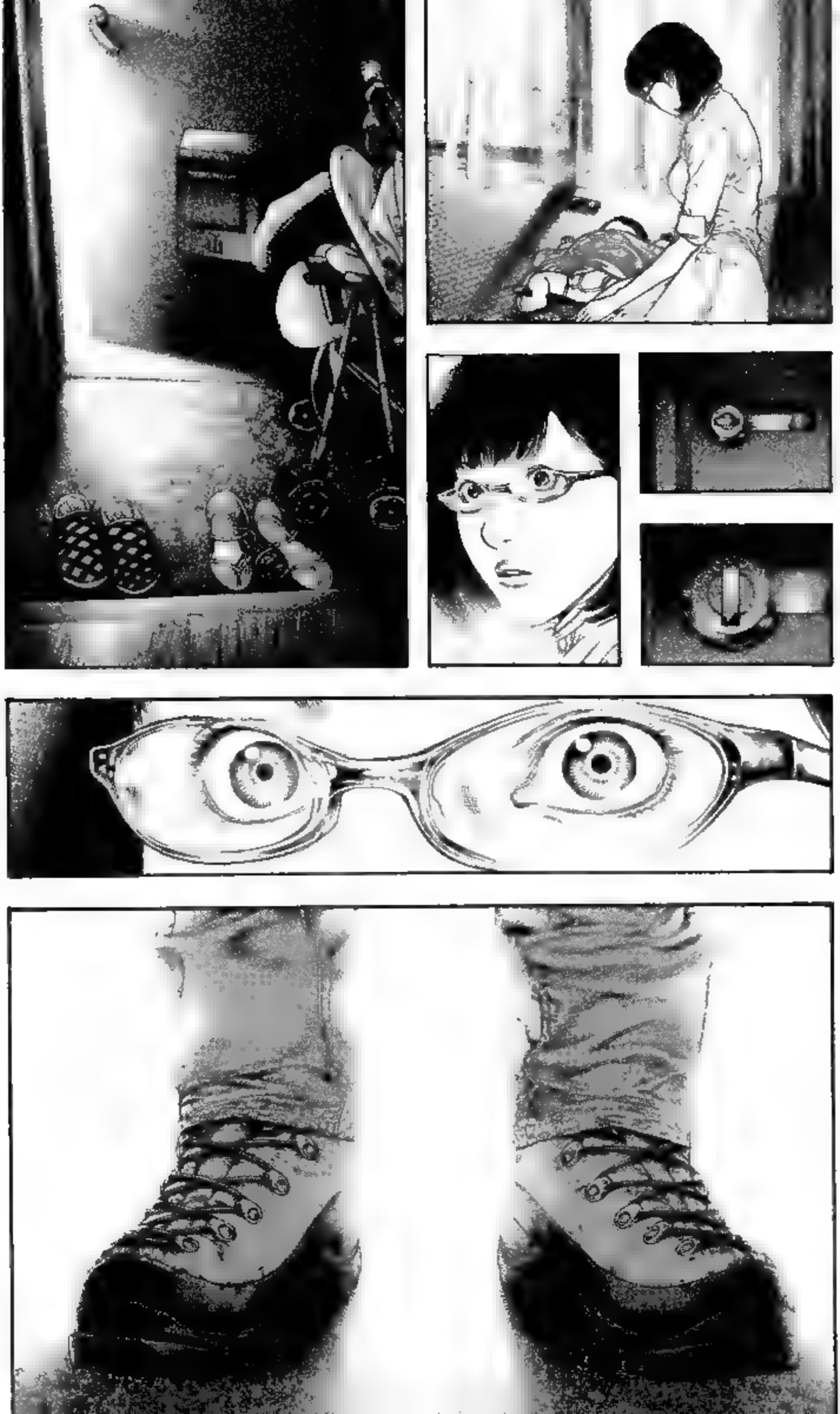
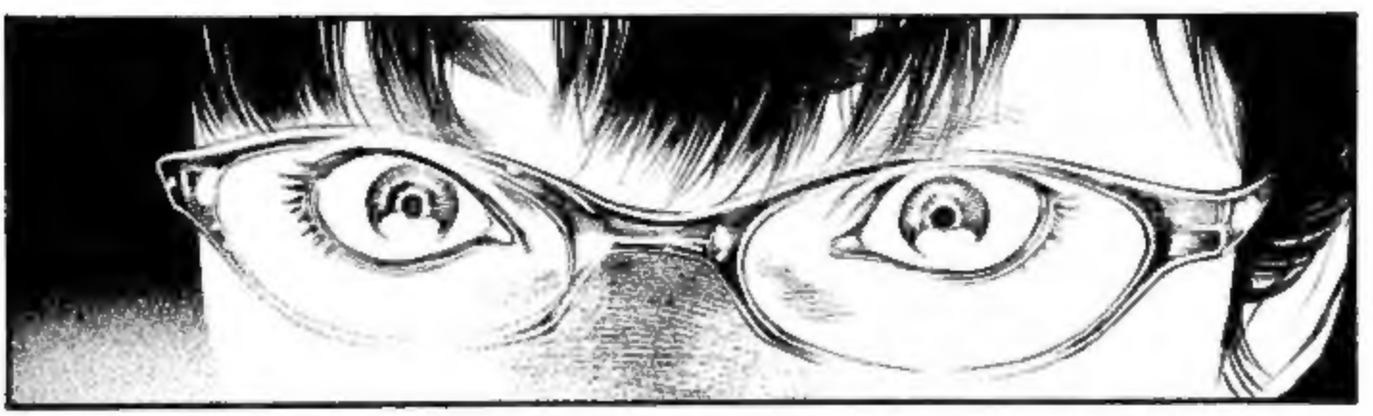


Ministry of
Foreign Affairs



※

WE JUST RECEIVED CONTACT FROM THE ISLAMABAD JAPANESE EMBASSY.
THEY'RE BEING ATTENDED ON BY A TEAM AT THE SITE BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT DESCENDED THE MOUNTAIN ON THE SCHEDULED DAY.
A LIAISON OFFICER IS ABOUT TO GO SEARCHING FOR HIM...

H...
HELLO?

IS THIS THE WIFE OF KATOU BUNTAROU-SAN?

There is a
high possibility
there has been
an accident–

KOKOU NO HITO

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